Preview with today's Times

No 61,099

THE TIMES

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4 1981

Price twenty pence

Heavy lorry Bill may be defeated

Defeat faces the Government next week over its proposals to raise the maximum weight of lorries from 32.5 to 40 tonnes (Philip Webster writes). Sensing Conservative disunity over the plan, contained in a White Paper on Tuesday, the Opposition has tabled a motion for next Wednesday stating that the Government's proposals are inadequate to solve the existing problem of heavy lorries and opposing any further increase.

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, was given a hostile reception when he spoke to interested backbenchers last night. Three-quarters of the speakers were said to be against the plan.

Spain applies to join Nato

Spain *could* become the sixteenth member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization by the spring. Dr Joseph Luns, the Nato Secretary-General, welcomed the Spanish initiative to join the alliance. The value of Spain to Nato is as much its strategic position as its 342,000 men in uniform Page 6

Labour group loses 11 to SDP

Eleven members of the ruling Labour group on Southwark borough council, in south London, will quit the party today to join the SDP, alleging that "unpleasant left-wing extremists" control the constituency and local government party organizations in the borough Page 2

Schools Council seeks meeting

Criticisms of the Schools Council published in *The Times* yesterday moved Mr John Tomlinson, the council's chairman, to seek an urgent meeting with Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, to "clarify the issues". Some of the proposed changes could imply the council's closure Page 2

Courts given new powers

Imprisonment for offenders aged under 21 is abolished under the terms of a new Criminal Justice Bill. It gives the courts new powers, but critics argue that the Bill will not do enough to cut overcrowding in prisons Page 4

Doubts remain on Sinai force

The Israeli and American governments issued the text of their joint statement about the Sinai peacekeeping force intended to avert an Israeli veto on the participation of contingents from four European nations. But there was uncertainty over the Europeans' reaction Page 6

New hope for bone children

The Prime Minister says the Government is looking at the possibility of opening more bone marrow transplant centres. *The Times* reported yesterday that funds limit transplants at the Westminster Hospital, London, to 25 a year, and 97 children had died waiting Back page

Docherty sacked

Tommy Docherty was dismissed as manager of Preston North End, the third division football club, last night. Alan Kelly, his assistant has been put in temporary charge. Docherty returned from Australia this summer to manage Preston.

Commons recess

The House of Commons will rise for the Christmas recess on December 23 and the Lords on December 22. Both will return on January 18. There will be no sitting of the Lords on December 18 and 21

Parliament, page 8

Dearer milk

A pint of milk will cost more next week, rising probably by 1½p to 20p. Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, has agreed to please from the dairy industry for an increase and is expected to make an announcement next Thursday.

Bank lending rate down by ½%

New year cut expected in mortgage rate

By John Whitmore and Lorna Bourke

The cost of borrowing will be marginally cheaper from today after a small cut in the base lending rate by the main high street banks, from 15 to 14½ per cent.

But this does *not* mean a big enough reduction to allow for an instant cut in building society interest rates. If interest rates in the money markets ease further over the next week or two, however, then there could well be lower mortgage rates, if not before Christmas then early in the New Year.

While the Government hopes that interest rates will continue to fall, it has said that it does not expect them to fall swiftly.

The official aim at the moment appears to be to allow interest rates to fall steadily over months rather than in sudden big steps.

The monetary authorities believe they are regaining control over the money supply after the excessive growth during the summer, part of which resulted from the impact of the civil servants' dispute on tax flows. But they do not wish to relax their grip too rapidly, particularly until there is some evidence that the personal sector's strong appetite for bank credit may be starting to wane.

A further consideration is the exchange rate. Although the Government has no official exchange rate target, it is assumed that it would like the rate to continue somewhere close to its present level.

That means that United Kingdom interest rates cannot be lowered totally independently of what is happening in overseas financial markets. The recent falls in United States interest rates have made it easier for British rates to be cut, but there have been signs over the last few days that United States rates may have stopped falling for the present. Yesterday the pound closed 1.80 cents down at $1.935.

The effect of the reduction in base rates will be to lower the overdraft cost for prime industrial borrowers to 15¼ per cent.

Most personal borrowers are charged anything from 3 to 5 per cent over base rate for overdraft facilities.

None of the high street banks have moved their home loan rates, in spite of the bank base rates fall of 1.5 points since the banks' mortgage rate was fixed at a record 15 per cent on October 8. But if interest rates continue downward it is possible that there will be a cut in bank mortgage rates before Christmas, a Barclays spokesman said.

With the banks making 25 per cent of all new home loans, the building societies regard the banks as market leaders in fixing rates, and the societies will want to see bank home loan rates come down before they make any reductions.

"Our position is that the flow of funds into societies is not good—possibly the lowest I can remember it", Mr John Fry of Abbey National said.

The societies intake of cash (net receipts) dropped to £154m during October from September's level of £334m, and net receipts for last month are expected to be only £100m or less.

Much of this reduction is attributable to the fierce competition from National Savings which has seen sales of savings certificates hitting record levels.

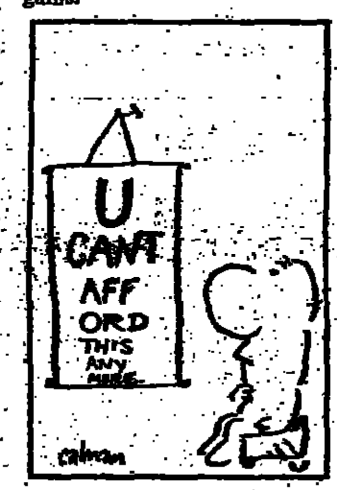
Cash repayments from home-buyers switching from a building society loan to a bank loan when they move house has been a huge source of funds for many societies and without this money, lending would have had to be cut back.

The societies meet on Thursday and Friday of next week at their monthly conference but if the banks have not reduced their home loan rates by then, it is unlikely that the societies will reduce theirs.

Welcoming the fall in bank base rates, Mr Richard Weir, secretary general of the Building Societies Association said that it would have no immediate effect on the societies. But he said the situation was being kept under careful review.

"We will be very happy to respond when rates come

Share prices fell sharply in dissatisfied response to the latest ½ per cent cut in base rates of 14½ per cent, and the *FT* Index of 30 leading shares closed 11.1 lower at 519.9 amid persistent selling (page 15). Dealers discounted the cut as too little and too late. The pound and the Deutschmark both lost ground, with the pound closing at $1.9350, and the dollar made all-round gains.



□ A much-publicized Labour plot to enable Sir Geoffrey Howe's mini-budget to have an airing in Parliament in advance of next week's full scale debate, fell rather flat yesterday when only a handful of Opposition MPs turned up for the great occasion.

Labour tacticians removed one of the names from each of two Opposition motions which would have allowed debates to take place on two Government Bills. They were passed in a matter of seconds without discussion.

After another debate had been concluded, the long-awaited debate began on the Chancellor's proposals. But there was little over an hour left and Opposition enthusiasm had waned.

Parliamentary report, page 8

Trudeau's triumph: Celebrating MPs applaud the Canadian Prime Minister after the convincing vote in the House of Commons in Ottawa to bring the Canadian Constitution home from Britain. (Quebec mourns, page 6).

Heseltine to force home sales

By Hugh Noyes

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced yesterday in the Commons that he has decided for the first time to use his powers under the Housing Act, 1980, to force through the sale of council houses in Norwich. Mr Heseltine told the House that the Norwich City Council had been given repeated warnings that they were moving too slowly in fulfilling the rights of their tenants to buy their homes.

The intervention by the Secretary of State, which caused uproar on the Labour benches in the Commons, means that civil servants from the Department of the Environment will move into Norwich on Monday to take over the task of selling council houses to tenants.

The Department said yesterday that about 12 other councils have had warnings about the slowness of their progress in carrying out sales and that between five and ten of these were proving difficult. It was hoped that the action being taken in the case of Norwich might persuade others to move more swiftly.

In the Commons, Mr Gerald Kaufman, Opposition spokesman for the Environment, immediately denounced Mr Heseltine's action as high handed.

□ Mrs Patricia Hollis, deputy leader of Norwich council, said last night the council would seek an injunction preventing further moves by Mr Heseltine (David Walker writes).

Norwich's legal case would be based on the unreasonableness of Mr Heseltine's decision to take over part of the city's housing stock when the council would be meeting the government target for sales only four months late. Mrs Hollis said Norwich would have sold the 800 properties specified by the government by next June; the government has asked for completed sales by February.

Poland unable to pay back $500m debt

From Peter Norman, Frankfurt, Dec 3

The two-month-old agreement to reschedule the part of Poland's commercial bank debt falling due this year is threatened with collapse.

Poland has told West German Bankers involved with the rescheduling operation that it cannot fulfil its pledge to pay back $500m (£260m) by the end of this year as part of the agreement in principle to restructure the debt.

The Polish authorities argue that paying back the funds would effectively plunge their country into bankruptcy at the beginning of next year and that if they are to meet their obligations, they must have more money.

As a result, the rescheduling agreements that were negotiated on behalf of 460 Western banks by Poland and an international taskforce of leading creditor banks are still waiting to be formally signed.

The West German and American banks appear to be determined to take a tough line. There is a growing feeling that Poland has deliberately played for time in the debt negotiations. Recent visits to Poland by groups of bank economists reporting to the task force have done little to reassure the creditor banks that Poland is putting its economic house in order.

The West German bankers insist that Western banks cannot provide any new money for Poland until the backpayments are made and the October agreements signed.

Inevitably, there is a certain amount of bluff at the present stage of the negotiations, but bankers say they would be prepared to let the 1981 debt rescheduling agreement collapse if the Poles fail to honour their commitments.

Such action would compel the banks to make heavy write-offs of their Polish lending. A Polish default would also confront other Comecon states with the unpleasant alternative of bailing out the Poles or accepting that the standing of Eastern Block borrowers with Western banks would be ruined.

In these circumstances, it is argued that the Eastern Block countries could step in before the end of the year and provide funds for the Poles. Hopes are also being pinned on Western governments.

At last week's European Council in London, the EEC heads of government said they were willing, within the limits of their means and in collaboration with others, to support Polish efforts to revive the economy.

They agreed a text on Poland which ended with the possibly significant remark that the EEC leaders believed that the rescheduling of the Polish debt and the provision of new credit would make an important contribution to that end.

The recent application by Poland to join the International Monetary Fund cannot help to alleviate the country's financial plight in the short term. It is thought that the first credits will not be made available before the middle of 1983.

In the meantime, the Poles should be negotiating the rescheduling of their debts falling due in 1982, 1983 and 1984. Such negotiations, however, cannot take place if the 1981 agreement collapses.

The Polish authorities have told Western bankers that they need between three and four years for their economic policies to work. In the long term, even German bankers believe that Poland's economy could be restored to health.

They point out that it is much richer in natural resources than West Germany with large deposits of coal, copper, tin and sulphur and an agriculture that could, in theory, support a population twice the size of Poland's today. The missing ingredient is efficiency.

Solidarity tries to avert clash, page 7

Legacy of poor planning, page 17

Waldheim withdraws candidacy

From Our Correspondent New York, Dec 3

Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, today withdrew his candidacy for reelection and asked that his name be dropped from further balloting in the Security Council. The move has stunned diplomats here as it was believed that support for an extension of Dr Waldheim's term had been gathering momentum.

However, delegates at the United Nations are divided on whether Dr Waldheim is stepping down or gambling that his decision will perpetuate a deadlock in the voting, keeping him in office after his present term expires at the end of this month.

It is thought that the Security Council could then take up to three years to find an acceptable candidate.

Diplomatic sources said that a report issued today by the Chinese news agency stating Peking would continue to block Dr Waldheim's candidacy, had prompted the Secretary-General's decision to bow out gracefully rather than be further humiliated in the ballotting.

In a letter to the president of the Security Council, Dr Waldheim said he had decided that in the best interest of the organization and to facilitate the task of the council, he would ask that his name not be included in further ballots that the council might hold.

Rugby men give the unions a try

From Ronald Kershaw Leeds

If the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton, then new hope must spring in the breasts of trade union leaders with the news that Rugby League occupants of the playing fields of Doncaster, Wigan, and Huddersfield, to name a few, have entered the brotherhood of trade unionism. Whether they will stimulate negotiators to win the battles of Congress House remains to be seen.

After years of unsuccessful attempts, professional Rugby League players have formed themselves into the Rugby League Professional Players' Association and have been admitted to membership of Apex, the Association of Professional Executive Clerical and Computer Staffs.

There are 1,500 professional Rugby League players in Britain. The majority consider they should be recognized as a profession and properly represented particularly when pay and conditions are being considered. Until yesterday they were the only professional sportsmen without formal representation.

Apex does not appear to be too fussy about the heading under which prop forwards, scrum halfs and hookers enter their union but say they will take their place among a miscellany of wool sorters, AA patrolmen, and security officers. But the union must be happy with the thought that should their new members be called upon to man a picket line, they would provide a formidable one.

The formation of the association is an attempt not only to improve wages and conditions of players but to increase the stature of the game. Mr Gary Hetherington, chairman of the new association and captain of Huddersfield said last night: "The aim of the association is to raise the level of the profession. We are very much aware that Rugby League is one of the few professional sports showing a healthy expansion.

The association has five main aims: To protect the interests of the players at both club and league level; Ensure that players obtain a fair reward for their efforts; To seek consultation with the Rugby League so that players may be involved in changes of rule; Establish satisfactory insurance and benevolent schemes for players; Promote social activities at club and league level.

Mr David Oxley, Rugby League secretary, welcomed the move. "I have always felt that a well-organized responsible and wholly representative players association could be a great force for good in the game. I very much hope the association will be concerned with the professional standards of its members, both on and off the field."

Mr Brian Heywood, of Apex, makes it clear: "Our job is purely professional. We shall provide them with professional representation, with administration and with legal representation."

Sacking of 800 sparks steel confrontation

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

A fresh labour relations crisis last night hit state steel with the collapse of pay negotiations between the British Steel Corporation and the industry's largest union, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.

Leaders of the ISTC warned of a confrontation with Sir Ian Macgregor, chairman of BSC, unless there was immediate withdrawal of redundancy notices issued to nearly 500 workers at the Port Talbot steelworks in South Wales as part of a job-shedding exercise affecting 19,000 employees.

Mr Bill Sirs, general secretary of the Confederation who led the 13-week national steel strike early last year, said: "The sacking of these men was a deliberate intimidation designed to push the ISTC into an agreement with the Corporation. It has not worked. It has backfired, and now we face the most serious situation since Macgregor came to BSC."

British Steel had no comment last night, saying that a union letter to its Victoria offices had not arrived. But the union's 70-strong central negotiating committee had dispersed to the steelmaking areas after unanimously rejecting BSC strategy on pay for 1982.

With memories of the three-month stoppage and the picketing it brought still fresh in people's minds, it is not thought that the ISTC will resort to such drastic action on this occasion. Options being considered include a national overtime ban and one-day strike affecting successive plants.

The climax has blown up suddenly but the crisis has been brewing for some weeks. British Steel have rejected the idea of a national increase to everyone from January 1, arguing that productivity bargaining must take place in plants. Overall, BSC wants to reduce by 19,000 before next July, and where these cuts cannot be made with union agreement the ISTC says that men are being made redundant involuntarily.

There is also disagreement on starting a 39-hour week, accepted in principle after Lord Lever's inquiry into steel pay which settled the 1981 strike. The steelmen claim it should start on January 1, 1982, BSC say that poor results force postponement for a year. Only two days ago, British Steel announced losses of £196m for the half-year to October 3, as against £279m for the same period last year. The trading loss was £154m as against £187m, and BSC expects a lower loss in the second half of the fiscal year.

The picture is complicated because unions representing craftsmen and some general workers have already accepted the Corporation's strategy, which management says should yield pay rises of 5 to 10.5 per cent depending upon the rate of job loss accepted at each plant.

Confederation negotiators offered yesterday to take the 39-hour week back to Lord Lever for binding arbitration but BSC declined. The union claims that pressure is being exerted by a management threat to give only the state minimum redundancy pay—rather than around £10,000 under the industry's own scheme—if the cutbacks do not go through on schedule.

Union leaders also fear that this is only the first tranche of redundancies, with a further 20,000 threatened for the second half of 1982.

Foot lashes out at left candidate

By Anthony Bevins and Philip Webster

Mr Michael Foot stunned Labour MPs yesterday with an off-the-cuff revelation in the Commons that he would do all in his power to block the endorsement of one token hard-left prospective parliamentary candidate, Mr Peter Tatchell, of Bermondsey, London.

The statement was provoked during Prime Minister's question time by a barbed reference from Mr James Wellbeloved, a Social Democrat, pointing out that Mr Tatchell had called for the mobilization of extra-parliamentary action to challenge the Government's right to rule.

Mr Foot initially confused some MPs by mistakenly saying that Mr Tatchell was not an endorsed member of the Labour Party, saying: "Since the matter had been raised, can I say that the individual concerned is not an endorsed member of the Labour Party and, as far as I am concerned, never will be!" He made clear later that he had meant to say "endorsed candidate" rather than "member".

His first remark led some MPs into the momentary assumption that Mr Foot had been speaking of another Labour test case; Mr Tariq Ali's controversial application for membership of the party

But as the full significance of Mr Foot's intended message sank home on his own benches, the contrast became stark and graphic; between the angry disbelief of the left and the dramatic delight of the right, some of them slapping their thighs with joy.



Mr Tatchell: Choice intensifies party war.

For all Labour MPs have been awaiting a keystone meeting between Mr Foot and the party executive's organization committee next Monday, when the Labour leader is due to spell out his case for action against the Militant Tendency and the ultra-left.

Mr Tatchell, aged 29, was selected as prospective candidate by Southwark, Bermondsey, Labour Party on November 8, and has since become a target of right-wing protest. The case against his endorsement had been put most strongly to Mr Foot by the retiring Labour MP for Southwark, Bermondsey, Mr Robert Mellish, the former Chief Whip, who has repeatedly threatened to force a by-election in protest against a local left-wing takeover.

Yesterday, Mr Mellish welcomed Mr Foot's comments. He said that it appeared that Mr Tatchell was not likely to be endorsed as prospective candidate.

The burden of Mr Foot's counter-attack against Mr Tatchell, and anyone else on the hard left, is his passionate faith in parliamentary democracy. He has said repeatedly that he believes in tolerance and education rather than expulsions and witch-hunts. Yet one senior colleague said last night that his faith in democracy was the iron in the kid glove of tolerance.

At the regular weekly meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party last night, Mr Foot replied to leftwing criticism of his Commons announcement with the words: "Parliamentary democracy was at stake. There can be no wavering on that."

The division in the party was best summed up by two members of the organization committee, which makes a preliminary judgment on the Tatchall case on Monday.

Mr John Golding, a staunch opponent of the left, said: "I am delighted that Michael Foot is seeing sense and is now prepared to take his jacket off to the bully boys of the left."

Mr Tatchell's adoption had brought home to Mr Foot the key issue, "that if we allow the party to be taken over by itinerant, middle-class, political fixers of the extremist left, then the party will fall apart and be deserted by decent, ordinary, Labour voters."

Parliamentary report, page 8

NEWS IN SUMMARY

On-the-spot fines for fare-dodgers

On-the-spot fines are to be introduced next month on buses in Greater Manchester as part of a campaign against fare-dodgers, who are costing the city's transport department £2m a year (a Staff Reporter writes).

Passenger transport authorities throughout the rest of Britain will watch the scheme which is the first of its kind in Britain, being implemented on 2,500 buses, before deciding to follow Greater Manchester. Fares-dodging is costing London Transport an estimated £4m a year.

Greater Manchester had to sponsor a private Bill in Parliament to get authority to impose instant fines, but expects that within a week of the scheme beginning on January 4 they will be saving £2,000 a week.

£9m deficit still likely for fund

The national insurance fund is still expected to have a deficit of £9m next year, despite the higher contributions employees will have to pay from next April. That was disclosed yesterday when the Government Actuary's report was published with the new Social Security (Contributions) Bill, 1981 (Our Social Services Correspondent writes).

The Bill will give the Government power to raise above present legal limits the ceiling of earnings on which employees pay contributions, and to waive the formula normally used to increase contributions for the self-employed.

Social Security (Contributions) Bill, 1981, Report by the Government Actuary on the Financial Provisions of the Bill (Command 8443, Stationery Office, £1.80).

Bomb wrecks car showroom

Forensic scientists are trying to identify the explosive device used to blow up a car showroom in South Wales. The blast wrecked offices and several new cars at John Bevan Motors, the main dealer for Czechoslovakian-built Skoda cars in Swansea, late on Wednesday night. Five homes and shops were also damaged.

Detectives confirmed yesterday that traces of explosives had been discovered, but they ruled out any political motive.

Mr John Bevan, the garage owner, said he had no idea why he should be a target. He estimated damage at £50,000.

Little appetite for Howe dinner

A businessmen's dinner at which Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was to have been the guest speaker tonight was cancelled yesterday after only 35 tickets had been sold.

The £50-a-head meal at the Great Danes Hotel, near Maidstone, Kent, had been organized by Tunbridge Wells Conservative Party for businessmen attending a conference on the EEC. A spokesman said: "It is rather disappointing and a bit embarrassing. I suppose some people might feel that £50 a head is a bit dear for dining with the Chancellor".

Whale products ban adopted

The EEC ban on whale products, originally proposed by the United Kingdom, is to come into effect from January 1, after its formal adoption yesterday by the European Council of Environment Ministers.

The ban does not cover all whale products; but it will no longer be legal to import sperm oil and spermaceti into the UK, with a wide range of other products including leather and fur skins treated with whale oil, and products made from them.

Dublin to drop airport backing

The Irish Government is to drop its commitment to build an international airport at the remote pilgrimage village of Knock in the west of Ireland.

Withdrawing finance from the airport, which is being built in a co Mayo bog, has been under serious consideration for some time, and with public spending cuts yesterday's decision was not unexpected.

Two rescued as aircraft ditches

The two occupants of a light aircraft which ditched in the Channel 30 miles off Bournemouth were under medical observation at Portland naval base, Dorset, last night after being rescued by a naval helicopter.

The Piper Comanche aircraft, piloted by a woman taking her flying test, ditched on its way from Guernsey to Herne airport. Two naval ships were diverted and four helicopters sent from Portland. The couple were named as Mr Caradoc Jones, of Chorley Wood, Hertfordshire, the flying instructor, and Miss Gail Duncan, of Taunton,

Engineers accept 5%

The 17 unions within the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions yesterday decided formally to accept a 5.06 per cent pay rise offer affecting almost two million engineering industry workers.

'Southwark 11' defect from Labour to SDP

By Richard Ford

Eleven members of the ruling Labour group on Southwark Borough Council in south London will leave the party today to join the Social Democrats, alleging that "unpleasant left-wing extremists" effectively control the constituency and local government party organizations in the borough.

They will join two other SDP members who have left Labour and another who has recently won a by-election. The SDP will then become the official opposition on the council instead of the Conservatives who have only seven councillors.

Labour will continue to control the council, with 43 members.

The defections come shortly before right-wing members of Labour's national executive committee are to press for an inquiry to be held into the party organization in Southwark. The local party has decided to exclude Mr John O'Grady, Labour leader of the council for the past 14 years, from its candidates' list for the local elections in May.

Mr O'Grady, aged 61, has been a Southwark councillor for 23 years and some Labour MPs are supporting him. It is possible that his treatment could provoke a parliamentary by-election in Southwark, Bermondsey, the seat held by Mr Robert Mellish, the former Labour Chief Whip.

Among those who will announce their defection today are Mr Charles Sawyer, chairman of the borough's housing committee, Mrs Evelyn Ackroyd, his vice-chairman, and Mr Steve Kippin, the chief whip. The others are: Mr Bert Ray, Mr Charles Halford, Mr James Dower, Mr Bill Payne (the deputy mayor), Mrs Florrie Sampson, Mr Peter Plower, Mrs Meg White, and Mr Arthur Knight.

SDP is socialist, councillors say

□ The three Islington Labour councillors whose defection to the SDP has given the party control of its first local authority spoke yesterday of their continuing commitment to socialism (David Walker writes).

One of them, Mr Christopher Pryce, said: "None of us can make the statement at the moment that the Social Democratic Party is not a socialist party". He and his colleagues would be fighting to ensure the new party was genuinely radical.

At a press conference, all three made plain that their political transfer was governed by the state of the Labour Party. "We can no longer reconcile our beliefs in representative democracy and parliamentary socialism with the increasing intolerance and extremism of the Labour Party in Islington.

"This is evidenced, for example, by the policies recently incorporated into the manifesto for the next local elections, the proposed subordination of elected councillors to Labour Party committees and the obvious contempt shown by many new members of the party for accepted democratic procedures."

Although the three have been warmly welcomed by the SDP, they declared their support for Mr George Cunningham, MP for Islington, South and Finsbury, who left the Labour Party this week to sit as an independent.

Next week, at a meeting of Islington Borough Council, committee positions will be reallocated among SDP councillors. Few important policy changes are expected until after next May, except in housing and social services.

Tory fear helped us, Williams claims

□ Mrs Shirley Williams told businessmen in Dusseldorf yesterday that her victory in the Crosby by-election was partly due to fear among Conservative middle-class voters that unemployment would spread to them (Patricia Clough writes from Dusseldorf).

She also told her partly German audience that the influence in Washington of Herr Helmut Schmidt, West Germany's Social Democrat Chancellor, for East-West stability and disarmament had been "a major electoral asset.

She added that in Britain the SDP would advocate a relatively modest investment programme which would take many thousands off the dole queues.

□ Scotland is setting the pace in cooperation between the Liberal and Social Democratic parties, spokesmen for the Alliance said yesterday (Robin Young writes).

Earlier this week, the parties in the Lothian region announce their agreement as to which party should field candidates in which wards in the regional council elections to be held next May, the joint policy on which they would fight.

In some constituencies in the region, cooperation is very close.

□ Labour moderates in Scotland see the slump in popularity of the party shown in an opinion poll published yesterday as a self-inflicted wound.

The opinion poll by System Three, published in the *Glasgow Herald*, showed post-Crosby support in Scotland for the SDP at 27 per cent, compared with 16 per cent two months ago.

Tory MP's plea for change

By Our Political Editor

An appeal to the Conservative Party to reoccupy the centre ground of politics to sign the death warrant of the Social Democratic Party was made yesterday by Mr Stephen Dorrell, Conservative MP for Loughborough.

He said a number of Conservative MPs and many hundreds of thousands of the party's supporters were unhappy with parts of the Government's record, in particular with the failure of their economic policies to produce the recovery of output, profits and employment which had been persistently promised.

Those Conservatives were afraid that the party's historic commitment to growth and reform might be replaced by a banker's vision of financial rectitude.

Mr Dorrell, who is one of the more outspoken left-wing Conservative MPs, has often been referred to as a possible SDP recruit. Writing in yesterday's *Leicester Mercury*, he said he did not find such a course attractive.

"I welcome the emergence of the SDP, because it should make us think more seriously about what the Conservative Party has historically stood for" he said. As a more attractive political force than the present Labour Party, the SDP had put Conservatives on their mettle to an extent they had not known since the 1960s.

ILEA CUT HALVED BY WHITEHALL

By Our Education Correspondent

The Government's announcement on Wednesday that no local authority will be required to cut their expenditure by more than 7 per cent will mean that the Inner London Education Authority's cut will be £50m

Asked for his reaction to the Government's unexpected decision, Mr Bryn Davies, leader of the ILEA, said: "I do not think I can welcome something that means a £50m cut in a budget of £700m. It is still very bad news for the authority, and will mean a noticeable reduction in the quality of the service."

Girls in ILEA schools are significantly more likely than boys to stay on at school beyond the age of 16, according to a report considered yesterday by the authority's 16-19 review subcommittee. The staying-on rate for girls last year was, on average, a quarter higher than for boys.

The biggest difference was in Lewisham where half the girls in the fifth form stayed on, compared with slightly more than one-third of the boys, and in Lambeth where 46 per cent of the girls stayed on, compared with 31 per cent of the boys. In only one of the authority's 10 divisions, Wandsworth, was there no appreciable difference

The proportion of all pupils staying on at ILEA schools in September, 1980 was 38 per cent, 4 per cent higher than in the previous year. The figures do not include those pupils who left to take up full-time places in colleges of further education.

Third arrest in republic of jail escape terrorists

From Christopher Thomas, Belfast

Police in the Irish Republic yesterday captured another of the eight terrorists who shot their way out of Crumlin Road Jail, Belfast, last June.

Michael McKee, of Belfast, was arrested just across the border in Dundalk, co Louth, the third of the escapers to be traced. The other two are in custody in the Republic and are due to go on trial at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin next week.

McKee was arrested in an early morning raid by armed detectives on a housing estate on the outskirts of Dundalk. After his escape he was sentenced to 20 years for possession of an M60 machine-gun.

Exactly how McKee and the other escapers obtained guns to force their way out of the jail has never been officially established. Some of the men have been seen at republican events in southern Ireland.

McKee was arrested with another man and later a third man was detained by police who stopped a car in Dundalk. They are being held under the Offences against the State Act and are expected to appear before the Special Criminal Court today.

The two other escapers held in the republic are Robert Campbell and Michael Ryan. Campbell was awaiting trial on a charge of murdering an SAS captain when he escaped, and was convicted in his absence and sentenced to 30 years.

Ryan was on remand awaiting trial on a charge of murdering an Ulster Defence Regiment man in 1979 and also faced charges of attempted murder and possession of firearms.

The three captured escapers are likely to be charged under the Criminal Law Jurisdiction Act, a little-used act that allows people to be tried on either side of the border irrespective of where the alleged offence occurred, with attempting to murder a detective constable while escaping. They will also be charged with escaping from lawful custody.

Police in Northern Ireland said yesterday that the RUC would continue to be on full alert for the present. There are fears of a pre-Christmas bombing campaign by the IRA.

The RUC added that eight additional mobile divisional support units, which are designed to react swiftly to emergencies, and which were created in the past few weeks, would be retained permanently.

The Army's 600-strong Spearhead battalion, which is operating on the border, is to stay in the province for the present.

The intensive new security drive comes after the murder last month by the IRA of the Rev Robert Bradford, official Unionist MP for Belfast, South.

It is increasingly apparent that a Provisional IRA defector is giving vital information to the police which has resulted in a series of successful operations in recent weeks. The informer, whose name is openly used in the Catholic areas of West Belfast, is believed to be living in northern England.

Future of the Schools Council

Chairman seeks urgent talks with Joseph

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The Schools Council announced yesterday that its chairman, Mr John Tomlinson, was to seek an urgent meeting with Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to "clarify the issues" raised in yesterday's report in *The Times* of criticisms of the council by Department of Education and Science (DES) officials.

The report gave details of confidential oral evidence given by department officials to Mrs Nancy Trenaman, Principal of St Anne's College, Oxford, who has just completed a review for the Government of the council's constitution and responsibilities for curriculum development and public examinations.

The DES officials were highly critical of the council's staff, structure, methods of work, chosen areas of activity, and effectiveness. Mrs Trenaman said that the changes they proposed amounted to the closure of the council and the creation of a quite different body.

The Inspectorate for Schools, which operates within the DES but rigorously maintains its independence, presented a markedly different view of the council in its written evidence to Mrs Trenaman.

While it echoed many of the DES officials' criticisms of the council's structure, its failure to identify priorities adequately, and its weaknesses with regard to the evaluation and dissemination of its work, the inspectorate considered that significant progress had been made since the council's reorganization in 1978 and that much of its work deserved praise.

The council had completed a number of outstanding projects which had made a considerable impact in the classroom, it said. They had led to observable improvements in motivation and in the quality of learning in, for example, classics, geography and history.

In the primary school some projects such as "science 5-13", "linguistics and English teaching", and "health education 5-13" had been equally good. They had contributed to teachers' understanding of pupils of that age

However, in general the council's activities had not had a widespread influence on work in the classroom. Sometimes that was due to the inability of the system and teachers to respond to the initiative, but sometimes it was due to the quality of the project and its material.

The DES officials were particularly critical about the management of the council's staff.

Princess Margaret visiting a new JobCentre yesterday during a tour of Liverpool, where 14,000 people are chasing 250 vacancies. Later she went on to a students' Christmas ball at Keele University, of which she is Chancellor.

Fighting talk drew CB users

A citizens' band radio account of a fist fight drew spectators to the scene at 1.30 am, magistrates at Barnsley, South Yorkshire, were told yesterday when five people admitted causing a breach of the peace.

So many listeners turned up outside Mr John Norton's house in Roebuck Street, Wombwell, South Yorkshire, that neighbours ran outside in their nightclothes, Mr Stephen Battersby, for the prosecution said. Mr Norton, referred to in the broadcast as "Lumberjack" was involved in the fight with Mr Sean Taylor, known as "Ever Ready".

Robert Ford, aged 21, of Roebuck Street, Wombwell; Martyn Naylor, aged 18, of Smith Street, Wombwell; William Gillfillan, aged 24, of Dearne Road, Brampton, South Yorkshire; William Evans, aged 27, of Cemetery Road, Wombwell; and Stephen Beadling, aged 23, of Dearne Road, Brampton, were bound over for a year.

Mr Beadling told the court: "We heard 'Lumberjack' was beating up 'Ever Ready'"

Ferry sit-in ends after new operator emerges

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

The crews of the two P & O Liverpool to Belfast ferries voted to end their occupation at noon today after it was announced yesterday that an unnamed operator would take over the service.

Officials of the National Union of Seamen (NUS) put the results of lengthy peace talks to members on board the Ulster Prince and the Ulster Queen. They said the Irish Continental line would be the new operator, though that was not confirmed.

Each crew member has accepted a £2,560 pay-off and six who are aged over 60 will get severance payments of between £13,000 and £20,000.

The union says the agreement is historic, as severance settlements have rarely exceeded £4,000.

The new service, which the union hopes will start on January 1, will provide jobs for all the existing crew members.

Mr Roy Physick, chairman of the men's action committee, said: "Our memebrs have been assured that they will be employed on the new service".

The men will also get money to live on until the new service begins.

Mr Physick said: "We have been told by NUS head office that the Irish Continental line will be contacting us in the next few days about opening up the route. We have been told that they will use two ships on the service and will need at least 166 crew members. The first ship will start operating on January 1 and the second should be ready by Easter."

P & O planned to axe the service from November 11, blaming losses of more than £1m this year alone.

Multiple killers get life sentences

A man who murdered four times was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to five life terms and recommended to serve a minimum of 30 years.

Michael Jamieson, aged 24, showed no interest as he was addressed by Mr James Miskin, QC, Recorder of London.

James Anderson, aged 26, Jamieson's partner, was given two life terms, with a recommendation that he should serve at least 20 years.

Judge Miskin said he made the recommendations unhesitatingly. He passed additional prison terms totalling 19 years in Mr Jamieson's case and 16 years in Mr Anderson's. They were for offences ranging from armed robbery to burglary and social security frauds.

The judge described Mr Jamieson, of Folkestone Road, East Ham, east London, and Mr Anderson, of Hammersley Avenue, North Woolwich, south-east London, as "devastatingly dangerous" and heedless of the sufferings of their victims.

He praised the courage of Det Constable John Kathro, aged 35, and Det Sergeant Ronald Cork, aged 40, who in September last year talked Mr Jamieson and Mr Anderson into surrendering.

Mr Jamieson was convicted of four murders and an attempted murder in two trials. The offences took place within 18 days of each other and in total just £1,185 was stolen.

Mr Joseph Herbert, aged 74, and his wife, aged 78, were tortured and stabbed to death at their home in Plaistow, east London, on August 30 last year. Mr Anderson was cleared of murder at the first trial in October.

On September 8, 1980, Mr Champaklal Ganhdi, aged 42, a sub-postmaster, was shot through the heart by Mr Jamieson at his shop in East Ham, but "miraculously survived". Mr Jamieson admitted attempted murder and robbery. Mr Anderson was cleared of attempted murder but admitted robbery.



Police arresting Anderson and Jamieson at gunpoint after a siege in Plaistow, east London, last year.

On September 17 last year Mr Nathan Taylor, aged 75, and his nephew, Mr Leonard Mintz, aged 55, were shot dead by Mr Jamieson during a robbery at their shoe shop in Shepherds Bush, west London. Mr Jamieson and Mr Anderson were found guilty of murder at their second trial, which ended on Wednesday.

Mr Jamieson admitted possession of a 0.32 automatic pistol with intent to endanger life and Mr Anderson was convicted on that charge. Seven other offences were admitted by the two. They involved armed robberies of shopkeepers, burglaries, thefts, and forgery and fraud. Mr Jamieson had 15 previous convictions, and Mr Anderson 16. Mr Anderson was a friend and partner in crime of Mr Jamieson since their school days, but the two were involved in a fight with a razor blade in the cells below the court and were said to have become "sworn enemies".

Dr. Henry Rollin, a psychiatrist, said in evidence that Mr Jamieson's abnormally aggressive behaviour was caused by a severe personality disorder.

12 airports to be expanded

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The Government yesterday gave clearance for expansion at 12 English airports. But it said that the resulting extra capacity would not remove the need for a third London airport.

Ministers have sanctioned a rise of almost a third to £46.6m in the amount which local councils will be allowed to spend next year on terminals and runways at the airports. Mr Ian Sproat, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department of Trade, said at Westminster: "This represents the largest approved capital expenditure of its kind since the war."

Meanwhile, in the isolated grounds of an Essex country house a senior official of the department explained why the Government saw no hope of spreading round provincial airports the extra demand expected in London.

Mr Thomas Harris, assistant secretary in charge of the airports branch of the department, was speaking in the tenth week of the public inquiry into Stansted airport.

He said: "The distribution and nature of the spare capacity at the regional airports is such that very considerable development would be required for any one of these airports to handle anything approaching the number of passengers envisaged in the British Airports Authority's Stansted proposals."

He explained that in the 1970s the Government had examined ways of persuading passengers to use provincial airports instead of those near London. One way was to levy a tax on all passengers departures on flights abroad from London; another to subsidize airlines which switched their international routes from London to the provinces.

"It is improbable that any government is likely to wish to subsidize air transport services", Mr Harris said.

Research had shown that business travellers would probably pay the levy and still use London. Others would choose the nearest provincial airport to London, and it might take a further tax on departures from Bristol and Birmingham to persuade them to plan their journeys from as far away as Manchester.

Mr Harris said that provincial airports would probably be able to meet growth in local demand to the end of the century. Evidence from the department showed that Luton could not cope with the 15 million passengers a year as envisaged by the BAA for Stansted, though it is only 30 miles to the west.

Science report

Computers may clear the X-ray picture

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A method of presenting X-ray pictures which eliminates the need for recording on film is at an early stage of development. The research is a collaborative project between radiologists from the Brompton Hospital, in London, and specialists in the electronic processing and storage of images at the IBM Science Centre, at Winchester, Hampshire.

There are some obvious attractions to replacing films by using a computer system to convert an image created by X-rays into a form that can be projected directly on to a television screen and stored electronically. X-ray films, with their valuable silver content, are increasingly expensive items; they are also bulky and difficult to retrieve.

But there is a far greater potential advantage that could make medical diagnosis more precise. Although X-ray films provide the only means of obtaining high resolution pictures of the chest, for example, a lot of detail is lost in the photographic process.

Different X-ray procedures can be used to give a clear picture of boney structures or of blood vessels and air cavities. The perennial difficulty has been to present a picture giving the same clarity for bones, tissues and air spaces. That is the purpose of the research into electronic image processing research.

At this preliminary stage, normal X-ray pictures are being converted by an electronic scanner into a digital code and stored on a special computer image processor. The picture can be called up on to a television screen in a format which looks identical to the conventional film, and also in a variety of other presentations devised to highlight either a small portion of the picture or particular types of blood vessels and organs.

One object of image processing is to reduce the number of X-ray examinations needed to determine whether certain types of abnormality are present.

A simple example is to create a picture which is made by combining two images which are a millimetre out of register. Manipulations of that type can be done in a large number of ways, even though there is only one master electronic image stored in the computer processor.

The process is based on a system of coding which divides each picture into a series of points (or pixels, as they are called by experts in image processing) of 200 microns size, and described as one of 256 levels on a colour scale of grey.

X-ray systems are already in use which project a picture on a television screen at the same time as a film is made. The technical gap to overcome is in the design of a camera which will feed the X-ray image for direct conversion into its digital form.

UNIONS TOLD PLANS FOR 'EXPRESS'

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Newspaper union leaders were told yesterday by Lord Matthews, chief executive of the Trafalgar House group, that plans to float a new company for Express Newspapers would not affect ownership of the titles.

In talks with the unions it was made clear that the £25m company, Fleet Newspapers, would retain its ownership of the *Daily Express*, *Sunday Express* and *Daily Star*, but expansion plans will be curtailed.

Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, said an assurance had been given that the position of employees would not be affected by the "demerging" of the newspaper company from Trafalgar House.

Shareholders in Trafalgar House will be offered shares in the new company, which is expected to have a capital value of £55b. But a third press line due to come into operation in London will be mothballed, union sources said, because the management estimates that the cost of meeting union demands for operating it would be £6m a year.

A building under construction in Manchester would be completed but not occupied, with the consequent mothballing of another press line.

The issue of newspaper bingo was also raised yesterday, and Lord Matthews is understood to have told the unions that he had set a date to withdraw unilaterally from this form of promotion because it was no longer worth while.

Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 25; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B frs 35; Canada $2.50; Canaries Pes 125; Cyprus 500 mils; Denmark Dkr 7; Dubai Dir 7.00; Finland Mkk 6.50; France Frs 6.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 75; Holland Gl 3; Iran IR 135; Iraq ID 0.500; Irish Republic 30p; Italy L 1600; Jordan LD 0.425; Kuwait KD 0.450; Lebanon Ll 4.00; Luxembourg Lf 35; Madeira Esc 75; Malta 30c; Morocco Dir 7; Norway Kr 6.50; Oman OR 0.700; Pakistan Rps 12; Portugal Esc 75; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia SR 3.25; Singapore $4.5; Spain Pes 125; Sweden Skr 7.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.60; Syria LS5.50; Tunisia Din 600; USA $1.50; UAE Dir 7.00; Yugoslavia Din 50.



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Aid to parents in Hume's Opus Dei guidelines

By Clifford Longley, Religous Affairs Correspondent

Young people wishing to join the Roman Catholic organization, Opus Dei, must first discuss the matter with their parents of legal guardians, and no one under the age of 18 should take a vow or make a long-term commitment to it, Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, has stated in a formal letter to the leaders of Opus Dei in Britain.

Any exception to the first rule must be cleared with the local Roman Cathol bishopn first if there are, in exceptional cases, good reasons. Cardinal Hume has received several complaints from parents that their sons or daughters had joined Opus Dei without first telling them, and complaints that teenagers had been recruited. He has specified that individuals must not be put under undue pressure to join or remain in membership, and that Opus Dei members must be free to choose their own . iritual director, including one who is outside Opus Dei. Further, activities sponsored or managed by Opus Dei must be clearly identified as such.

The secretariat of Opus Dei in Britain issued a statement saying that its members in the Westminster diocese were "very grateful to Cardinal Hume for his fatherly care and blessing". The recommendations were welcome, the statement said, because they were in line with what members of Opus Dei had always sought to do in Britain and in the rest of the world.

"As is well known, the spirit of Opus Dei is based on a great love of freedom. It has always defended and will always defend personal freedom and responsibility, not only in the exercise of one's profession but also in all aspects of life, including that of joining or leaving the institution."

His fundamental principle, Cardinal Hume says, is that any international movement "may well have to be modified prudently" in the light of local cultural differences and local customs and standards. His four points are intended to help it to adapt to "the traditional spirituality and instincts of our people".

It is authoritatively said that some of the more rigorous spiritual practices of Opus Dei, such as physical mortification by means of a five-cord whip and a sharp chain, are considered out of place in contemporary English Catholicism. But there is no reference to such matters in Cardinal Hume's letter.

One of the cardinal's points covers the accusation made by a former member, Dr John Roche, of Linacre College, Oxford, that strong psychological pressure was applied to him and to many others not to leave Opus Dei. One detail of his charge was that Opus Dei members were able to turn for spiritual advice only to other Opus Dei members. That made it difficult to decide to leave.

Cardinal Hume has stated that individuals must be free to choose a spiritual director outside Opus Dei.

Dr Roche, whose allegations to *The Times* led to this newspaper's investigation, said he was delighted with Cardinal Hume's action. There were, however, other matters that had to be pursued. He set up a "committee for the investigation of Opus Dei".

Copies of Cardinal Hume's letter were issued to the press yesterday, And the cardinal is understood to have handed it in person to Father Philip Sherringdon, regional counsellor of Opus Dei, on Wednesday.

Yesterday Mr Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton, had and interview with Cardinal Hume on behalf of a constituent whose daughter had joined Opus Dei in London.

The Roman Catholic Arch bishop of Liverpool, Mgr Derek Worlock, said he had been consulted by Cardinal Hume in drawing up the statement of four principles contained in the letter. He would want the same principles to apply in his diocese, he said.

Cardinal Hume's letter and the press statement explaining it both emphaseze that in this matter his jurisdiction is limited to the Westminster archdiocese, which covers most of London north of the Thames and the county of Hertfordshire. But the indications are that Mgr Worlock's endorsement will be followed by others.

The Times published the results of and extensive inquiry into Opus Dei last January, recording several allegations against it, including that it had the nature of a sect, a "church within a church".

Opus Dei strongly denied that, saying that it was always anxious to work in harmony with the local bishops. It is established in about eighty countries, and was founded in Spain in 1928.

Opus Dei has been active in Britain since the 1940's and until this year its operation in London attracted no controversy. There is a long history of tensions between Opus Dei and the local Roman Catholic church in Oxford, however, and several Roman Catholic university chaplains have complained publicly.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Portsmouth, Mgr Anthony Emery, whose diocese includes the part of Oxford containing the main Opus Dei centre in the city, was said to be away yesterday, but likely to study Cardinal hume's statement on his return.

Cardinal Hume's statement and letter do not deal with many of the matters raised by the article in *The Times* and the subsequent publicity. It said on his behalf that he has limited himself to his jurisdiction as a bishop with pastoral responsibility for his diocese. In that way any possibility of a conflict with the Vatican, where Opus Dei is well thought of, has been avoided.



Mr and Mrs Stephen Brown about to board an Air Europe jet at Gatwick yesterday for their honeymoon in Paris. The bride, formerly Sindy Smith, aged 23, an air stewardess, of Horley, Surrey, had her wish of an airborne reception fulfilled by the loan of the aircraft for the day.

Making the historic house earn its keep

By Tony Samstag

The English Tourist Board yesterday launched an exercise in attracting businessmen, preferably free-spending, to one of the country's "underused, underpublicized and underplayed" resources, the historic house.

The idea is that the nation's various mansions, palaces, castles and residential follies, browsing in their magnificent settings of park land like so many white elephants, be turned into working animals to earn their keep as venues for such occasions as business seminars and product launches.

The tourist board has published a book in which the attractions of more than seventy historic venues are displayed under the title, *Putting on the Style*.

Style was not lacking at yesterday's launch in the appropriately historic crush bar of the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden. The guest of honour was Lady Spencer, the Princess of Wales's stepmother and a former member of the tourist board

Lady Spencer, whose commercial flair in the running of her own mansion at Althorp is well known, said she hoped the inspirational surroundings on offer would help to make business seminars "go with a real swing".

Mr Michael Montague, chairman of the tourist board, hastened to add that the intention was to use such houses for "appropriate occasions . . . nothing vulgar".

One of his main objectives was to use voluntary workers to help houses to open during more accessible opening hours

The tourist boards of Wales and Scotland are expected to follow England's example and put their great houses to commercial use.

Putting on the Style". (English Tourist Board, Hendon Road, Sutherland SR9 9XZ, £5 95, including postage and packing).

Lords reserve ruling on GLC fares

By Frances Gibb

The Lords of Appeal yesterday reserved judgment in the appeal by the Greater London Council over the legality of its cheaper fares scheme, launched in October.

At the end of the seven-day hearing Lord Wilberforce, presiding, said on behalf of Lords Diplock, Keith of Kinkel, Scarman and Brandon of Oakbrook: "Their lordships will report their opinions to the House in due course".

The GLC is contesting a Court of Appeal ruling on November 10 which upheld a claim by Bromley Borough Council that the GLC acted unlawfully in levying an extra 6.1p rate to pay for a cut of a quarter in bus and Underground fares.

Bromley claims that the GLC had no power to do what it did, and that even if it did have the power, it exercised it unreasonably.

Making his closing speech on behalf of the GLC, Mr Robert Alexander, QC, said that if the Lords of Appeal dismissed the appeal, they would be interfering with what was "traditionally within the realm of a local authority's judgment", discretion as to the needs of its area.

If the cut in fares was within the council's powers, he said, they should be allowed to continue their policy. "If they cannot, they are going to be required to run London Transport in a way which they believe is contrary to London's needs."

Bromley had not suggested that there was any way other than a fares reduction to halt the decline in London Transport, which the GLC had considered a matter of urgency.

"Surely a party which believes in this policy, has been elected on it, looked at it and decided to go ahead with it, should be given the opportunity to do so, and not be told by the courts: 'You should pursue some other policy more akin to that of the previous administration'."

The courts were being asked to interfere with the revenue-raising policy of a local authority which was responsible to an electorate and has to take decisions on what was right as a matter of social policy, he said.

They were also being asked to say that a local authority's transport policy was impermissible, despite its having been put to the electorate and voted on by the council.

FARMER IS FINED FOR CRUELTY

From a Correspondent
Doncaster

For the second time this year the owner of a small South Yorkshire farm has been sentenced by Doncaster magistrates for offences under the Protection of Animals Act, 1911.

Ellis Rafe Fox, aged 32, of Highfield Farm, Haywood, Bentley, Doncaster, was fined £100 yesterday on each of five charges after admitting causing unnecessary suffering to animals. He was ordered to pay £100 costs and was disqualified from keeping goats for 10 years. Mr Fox was given a conditional discharge on another charge.

The court heard that Mr Fox was convicted on several similar charges in May.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Workless worker escapes axe

Vauxhall Motors has axed 6,000 jobs in the past 12 months and has announced further white collar cuts. But for the past four years, it has had one employee doing next to nothing.

Mr Trevor Pinnington, a skilled fitter, occasionally helps out in the stationery store at Ellesmere Port. Most of the time, though, he justs sits, or chats with other employees.

Mr Pinnington, aged 47, refused to join a fitters' union strike in 1977 because it did not have the backing of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. Since then others refused to work with him,

Former England boxer jailed

A former boxer was jailed yesterday for three years after pleading guilty to arson charges. Robert Davies, aged 32, who boxed for England in the 1976 Montreal Olympics and for three years as a professional, was frustrated at being unable to see his daughter Lisa aged 19 months.

The Birkenhead Crown Court was told that he set fire, last May, to the house where Miss Debra Thompson, with whom he was living, was staying with her parents. Damage amounted to nearly £14,000.

Since the fire, Mr Davies has married Miss Thompson. Had he not, Judge Henry Lachs said, his sentence would have been longer.

Foot given new donkey jacket

Mr Michael Foot the Leader of the Opposition, has been sent a new coat, a navy blue donkey jacket, complete with leather shoulderpatches, by a group of building workers from Milford Haven, west Wales, who were angry that he was described as looking like an "unemployed navvy" at his Remembrance Day appearance at the Cenotaph last month.

In a letter to Mr Foot the men explained that they would be proud to see him wear the jacket on rallies and marches because it is standard dress for thousands of industrial workers in the area.

"The lads were annoyed at the way Mr Foot has been pilloried, with the suggestion that being unemployed was something to be ashamed of", Mr Frank Jones, local secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers engineering section, explained.

Butler must wait

An industrial tribunal to decide compensation for Mr David Chopping, the butler unfairly dismissed by the dowager Lady Dufferin and Ava, finished its hearing yesterday. The decision will not be announced for several weeks.



Double-heading with a head of steam on the Bluebell Line, Sussex.

Bond issue to help small railways short of cash

By Michael Baily, Transport Correspondent

A new issue of bonds will soon be on sale to help to keep Britain's private railways going.

It will not, however, be for the main railway system which the Victorians built on the back of probably the biggest public stock issue ever, but for the 50 or so little lines such as the Bluebell in Sussex, and for some 400 other railway preservation projects around the country which tend to have a big head of steam but, like British Rail, little cash.

The scheme is part of a new National Railway Preservation Campaign launched by railway enthusiasts, headed by the Conservative MP, Mr. Robert Adley, in the House of Commons yesterday.

Its aim is to raise cash and put unemployed young people to work refurbishing and developing the little railways and old engines that still survive in the country where railways were born.

Most of the old engines that have not already been done up are lying in a scrapyard in Barry, South Wales, owned by Mr Dai Woodham. Whereas other scrap merchants who bought up Britain's thousands of old steam engines long ago cut them up for melting down, he kept them and now has more than a hundred, steadily rusting but a goldmine for enthusiasts. Over half could still be restored, a recent expert survey showed, but at a cost of between £50,000 and £100,000 each.

Launching the campaign yesterday, Mr Adley said: "Our aim is to raise support for Britain's preserved railways by concentrating on the four railway R's, rescue, restoration, running and repairs".

INQUIRY ON COMA MAN CONSIDERED

From Our Correspondent
Ludlow

Dr Gerard Vaughan, the Minister for Health, is reconsidering his decision not to hold a top-level ministerial inquiry into the case of Mr David Woodhouse, aged 27, of Fownhope, Hereford and Worcester, who has been in a coma for seven months since a routine appendicitis operation went wrong at Hereford County Hospital.

Earlier this year Dr Vaughan refused demands from the Hereford and Worcester Area Health Authority, the Hereford County Hospital and the Hereford Community Health Council for a government inquiry after attempts to find out what had gone wrong were frustrated at the local level;

Last week Dr Magdy Ibrahim, the anaesthetist, made his first comment on the case when he said he would welcome an inquiry but had been told by the Medical Defence Union, the doctors' insurance body, to leave the matter in their hands.

The medical authorities in Hereford and Worcester say the MDU has advised its members not to cooperate with an inquiry.

SANTAS IN PITCH BATTLE

The seasonal spirit did not stretch very far when two Father Christmases spotted each other in a crowded street. Both were heading for the same pitch to sell their wares.

Clerkenwell Court, in London, heard yesterday how tempers became frayed and voices raised as Santas, David Cooper and William Woolf, challenged each other for the right to use the pitch, in Kingsway.

Mothers and children watched in amazement as they came to blows. "The fur was really flying", Police Constable Derek Spencer, who arrested them said.

Mr Cooper, aged 24, of Ferme Park Road, Hornsey, and Mr Woolf, aged 64, of Arlington Road, Camden Town, pleaded guilty to causing a breach of the peace. Mr Mark Romer, the magistrate, told them: "You must have disillusioned all the young children who were passing.

Cooper, a toy seller, and Woolf, a chocolate salesman, were bound over in £50 each to keep the peace for a year. They shook hands as they left the dock and promised to behave.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

New vote on Commons television

The House of Commons is to be given another opportunity to vote for the television coverage of its sittings (Our Political Staff writes).

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, will seek on December 15 to introduce a Bill to allow in the television cameras. The Government would "find it difficult to ignore a vote in favour.

On January 30 last year there was a tied vote, 201 to 201, on a Bill introduced by Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Grimsby.

With the casting vote of Mr Bernard Weatherill, The Deputy Speaker, the House for the first time favoured television coverage, but as a private member's Bill Mr Mitchell's measure proceeded no further.

Taping stops court case

A shoplifting case was stopped at Horseferry Road Magistrate's Court, London, yesterday after Mr Dennis Line, aged 71, a retired teacher was spotted tape-recording the proceedings from the public gallery. The magistrate made a forfeiture order under the Contempt of Court Act, 1981.

Mr Line, of Richmond Hill, Richmond upon Thames, Surrey, was recording the hearing in which his wife, Mrs Dorothy Line, aged 68, was accused of shoplifting. She was remanded until next March.

'Space Invaders' are repulsed

An experimental scheme to instal "Space invader" machines in four of Surrey's main libraries has been dropped by the county council after six months because rowdy earthlings were shattering the peace of reading rooms and because the machines were not making as much money as expected.

The county council is now lending out computer game cassettes for people to use in their homes.

Raiders get £75,000 but miss £225,000

Armed raiders who ambushed a security van in south London yesterday stole £75,000 but left £225,000 behind. A shot was fired from a handgun during the raid, in Lewis Road, Mitcham, but no-one was hurt.

Gunmen also stole £10,000 wages from the Royal Liverpool Teaching Hospital, in Liverpool. They escaped after evading police road blocks.

Footballer for trial

Remi Moses, the Manchester United footballer, was ordered yesterday to stand trial at Manchester Crown Court on February 15 with Raymond Saunders, aged 19, on a charge of causing actual bodily harm.

Justice Bill aims to strengthen power of courts

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Courts will receive new powers to deal with offenders under the Criminal Justice Bill, published yesterday. But the Bill will not do enough to cut prison overcrowding, critics say. It changes the ways young offenders are given custodial sentences and abolishes imprisonment for offenders aged under 21 and borstal training.

Under the Bill's provisions, will be determinate, which means courts will have more say about time served. Courts will be able to make detention centre orders for from three weeks to four months and pass youth custody sentences of longer than four months.

All young offenders will be supervised on release and continue to be eligible for parole. When a fine, compensation or costs are awarded against a juvenile, courts must generally order that parents or guardians should be responsible for paying. Community service orders will be made available for juvenile offenders aged 16. Fines are adjusted in the Bill to take account of changes in the value of money.

There has been controversy about a proposal, now in the Bill, to enable courts to remand accused persons in their absence, provided they give their consent and are legally represented. But the Bill lays down that can be done for no more than three consecutive weekly remands.

As stated by Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, in the House of Commons on Wednesday, the Bill gives greater flexibility to powers for partial suspension of sentence. Mr Whitelaw intends to bring this into operation in the spring. Powers to release offenders up to six months early in emergency circumstances are being made permanent. That will enable Parliament to cut the prison population if other measures fail.

Mr Sidney Powell, secretary of the governors branch of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, said that Mr Whitelaw's present action, though welcome, would not by itself reduce the prison population to a manageable size. The governors want it cut from 44,000 to 32,000 with the help of an amnesty and other measures.

Blackmailer jailed for six years

A Chinese gangster who brought terror to a Midlands town was jailed for six years yesterday. Sing Lap Lai, aged 44, of Lovatt Street, Stafford, formerly living in the West End of London for 20 years, was found guilty at Stafford Crown Court of demanding £150 with menaces from a businessman in Stafford.

During a four-day trial the court heard that Mr Lai was a member of the Wo On Lok branch of the Chinese triads, a secret criminal society run on similar lines to the Mafia. The jury was told that Mr Lai was head of blackmail in Stafford, setting up a protection racket to extort money from Chinese business families in the town.

Mr Anthony Barker, for the prosecution, said the defendant walked into the Rowley Street home of Mr Yeun Heung Lau, a restaurant owner, and communicated the triads' secret terror sign. He then demanded a £150 "loan".

Mr Lai told his terrified victim that the triads had hacked off the hand of one victim in Soho, London, and he said the whole of the Chinese business community in Stafford faced the threat of extortion by the triads.

Mr Lai said he was in charge of the Stafford operations. The conversation was tape-recorded by police hiding in an upstairs bedroom, and Mr Lai was arrested.

Detective Sergeant Brian Tunney said Mr Lai had received three prison sentences, totalling 10 years, in London for three separate offences connected with peddling hard drugs in the Gerrard Street area of Soho for the triads.

Farmers the truly rural guardians

From John Young Agriculture Correspondent Dulverton, Somerset

In swirling mist 1,200 ft up on Exmoor Mr John Pugsley led the way across a heather-covered hillside.

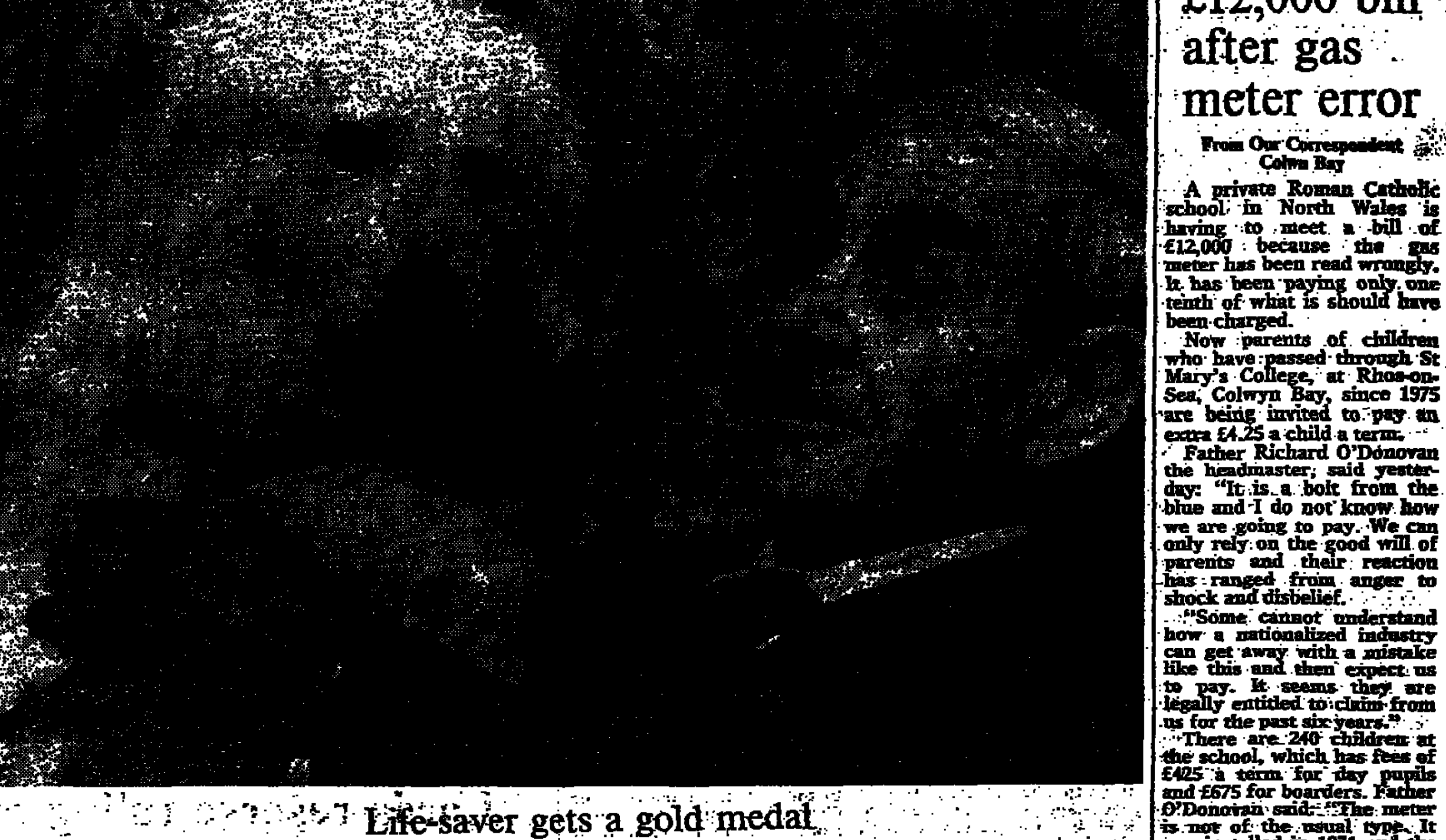
"Conservationist say that once you plough up moorland like this it is gone for ever", he said. "But I remember as a young boy watching Italian prisoners of war digging potatoes off this very spot."

Mr Pugsley farms 1,100 acres of upland which supports about 1,300 sheep and 110 beef cattle. About 650 acres of that was identified by Lord Porchester in his 1978 report on Exmoor as "critical amenity moorland" which should be conserved in the national interest.

Far from being anti-conservationist, Mr Pugsley is proud of his immaculate house and village and anxious to see the traditional Exmoor way of life survive. But he insists that if farming is to remain viable farmers must be compensated under management agreements for not putting moorland under the plough.

Yesterday the National Farmers' Union launched a campaign intended to disprove the idea that farmers are destroying the countryside, and to counter some of the hostile comments made during the debate on the Wild Life and Countryside Bill.

While the union's president, Sir Richard Butler, was denouncing in London much of the criticism as "utter nonsense", journalists were being taken on a whirlwind tour of the West Country to see what farmers were doing for positive conservation.



Life-saver gets a gold medal

Mr Norman Stephenson, aged 81, with Laska the Samoyed who has been awarded a gold medal for protective instinct kept him alive when he lay unconscious after a fall down an embankment in saving his life last September. Her Bradford. She snuggled her body over him to keep him warm throughout a night of torrential rain. The pair were found the next morning by two men who at first thought Laska was "protecting" a coat. Mr Stephenson was taken to hospital and recovered, but police said he would have died of hypothermia if it had not been for Laska's action. Mr Stephenson says he owes his life to Laska, whom he described as "a wonderful dog". Laska's gold medal for life-saving was one of the 1981 series of awards presented by the Pro-Dogs charity. Laska was herself "saved" in 1979 when she nearly pined to death after her elderly master died. The Samoyed breed rescue club placed her with a new owner.

School gets £12,000 bill after gas meter error

From Our Correspondent Colwyn Bay

A private Roman Catholic school in North Wales is having to meet a bill of £12,000 because the gas meter has been read wrongly. It has been paying only one tenth of what is should have been charged.

Now parents of children who have passed through St Mary's College, at Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay, since 1975 are being invited to pay an extra £4.25 a child a term.

Father Richard O'Donovan the headmaster, said yesterday: "It is a bolt from the blue and I do not know how we are going to pay. We can only rely on the good will of parents and their reaction has ranged from anger to shock and disbelief.

"Some cannot understand how a nationalized industry can get away with a mistake like this and then expect us to pay. It seems they are legally entitled to claim from us for the past six years."

"There are 240 children at the school, which has fees of £425 a term for day pupils and £675 for boarders. Father O'Donovan said: "The meter is not of the usual type. It was installed in 1971 and the first winter's bill was so low we queried it with Wales Gas. They sent an inspector to check the meter and assured us everything was in order.

This year Wales Gas rang up one day and said we owed them £4,400 over six years. Three days later they said it was £7,700. Three months later it had gone up to nearly £12,000.

"They seem to have made a series of errors for which we are having to pay. We have paid £4,000 already with money set aside and have been given three years to find the rest. We do not have the funds to meet an emergency like this."

In Cardiff a Wales Gas official admitted the error and said: "The meter was wrongly identified as one with four dials instead of five."

RING OF STEEL

Armed troops with tanks and armoured cars surrounded an El-Al jumbo jet on the tarmac at Heathrow airport yesterday in a security exercise simulating methods of dealing with a potential terrorist attack.

Parents peevish as school strike goes on

A Christmas chill in Coventry

From Arthur Osman, Coventry

An air of peevishness apparent in Coventry city centre yesterday was most marked on the faces of mothers trailing sullen children in their wake.

Their presence and that of some ill behaved, unaccompanied gangs of youngsters in the shopping precincts gave an illusion that Christmas had come early to the city. But with takings already affected by the 28,000 unemployed in the city, there was little activity around store tills.

Many mothers seemed to have "gone to town" to escape the claustrophobic atmosphere at home, where the city's 60,000 school children have been for the past month because of the strike by caretakers, kitchen staff and cleaners at 150 schools and colleges.

Their action is the result of the summer referendum in which a seven to one majority of a quarter of the city's electorate opted for a cutback in council spending.

As a result the Labour-controlled council has decided on £2m of cuts, of which £1.2m involves the education service and about £250,000 of that figure is on cleaning and other matters in which the strikers are engaged.

New contracts offered to them by the council meant fewer hours and less money and the National Union of Public Employees dug in its heels and claimed the closure of the schools as "a moral victory."

Yesterday a fresh effort was made to find a formula to end the damaging and dispiriting dispute. Both the council and Nupe agreed to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service trying to agree terms of reference, to be followed by more detailed discussions to solve the dispute.

But last night, after a day of talks about talks, it was not clear how far matters had progressed; whether there was any chance of schools reopening before Christmas or the month extending into the New Year and a winter of discontent.

Although no official figures are available, many local people have said that the £250,000 saving called for has already been achieved in terms of wages not paid and heating and lighting saved during the past month.

It has been suggested that any long continuation of the dispute would only be confirmation, if any was needed, that the affair was an extention of a bitter battle between moderates and leftists in the local Labour Party and a face-saving exercise for it and the union.

On Tuesday, according to Mr Arthur Taylor, Conservative leader on the council, his group will suggest that the strikers be declared redundant and the schools opened to the children. Cleaning and maintenance would be put out to private contractors, a suggestion already made by many parents who have offered to do the work themselves.

It is known that there is dissension among the strikers with many meals staff and some cleaners anxious to return, although the caretakers remain obdurate.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has been asked by Mr John Butcher, Conservative MP for Coventry, South West, to use any powers he has to intervene and open the schools.

Parents have expressed growing concern about the situation, from the many who are anxious about the interruption to their children's schooling.

Mr John Butcher: A call for government intervention

POP GROUP IN WALKOUT KEEPS FEE

A pop group which abandoned its performance after its lead singer was hit by a can of beer thrown from the audience was awarded, yesterday, the full fee for the show.

Mr Justice Mais said in the High Court that the group, Showaddywaddy, was entirely justified in leaving the stage at the Alexandra Palace, London after the incident.

He dismissed with costs a claim by the concert organisers, Club 18-30 (Social) Ltd, of London, for the return of the group's £4,887 fee, which was paid in advance.

Sharp rise in court cases

By Our Legal Correspondent

A significant increase in the workload of virtually all courts in England and Wales is shown by the latest judicial statistics, published yesterday.

Last year more than 55,000 cases were committed for trial to the crown courts, which deal with serious crime, an increase of about 10 per cent on the previous year.

Defendants had to wait an average of more than 17 weeks for their trials. In London the waiting time was far longer, more than 29 weeks.

The statistics show that half of the defendants who pleaded not guilty were acquitted. Again the London figure was well above the national average, about two-thirds of defendants who pleaded not guilty being acquitted.

The number of divorce petitions filed, at 177,415, is a new record and shows a rise of 6 per cent over 1979. The courts granted more than 153,000 final decrees, all but about 3,000 under the special "quickie" procedure.

The civil courts, comprising county courts and the High Court showed the biggest increase in workload. Nearly 2,500,000 cases were started there, 15 per cent more than in 1979.

Judicial Statistics Annual Report 1980 Stationery Office £9.20

Law Report December 4 1981 House of Lords

Underpinning job not liable to VAT

ACT Construction Ltd v Customs and Excise Commissioners

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Elwyn-Jones, Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Scarman and Lord Roskill

[Speeches delivered December 3]

A method of underpinning dwelling houses consisting in the construction of an additional foundation to the affected building was not work of "repair or maintenance" under the relevant legislation, and was therefore zero-rated for value-added tax.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by the Customs and Excise Commissioners from the Court of Appeal (Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Brandon and Lord Justice Ackner) (*The Times*, October 10, 1980; [1981] 1 WLR 49) which had held in favour of ACT Construction Ltd, of Orpington, Kent, that extensive work carried out by the company after the 1976 drought was an alteration of the building which did not fall within the ordinary and natural meaning of "maintenance". Accordingly it fell to be zero-rated under item 2 of group 8 of schedule 4 to the Finance Act 1972 as updated by the Value Added Tax (Consolidation) Order 1976 (SI 128).

The company were employed to carry out underpinning operations to houses of which the original foundations, laid in the 1920s and acceptable then under the current building regulations, had been found seriously wanting as a result of the drought of 1976. The company's method of underpinning consisted of the construction of an additional foundation to the affected building, that being not only additional to but also entirely separate from whatever original foundations still existed. It followed that whatever remained of those original foundations and however defective they were or had become, were left unaltered.

On August 8, 1978, a Value Added Tax Tribunal upheld the Customs and Excise Commissioners' assessment of the company to VAT on the basis that though the work done was a service in the course of the alteration of the building it was not zero-rated because it came within the exception "maintenance" in note (2) (a) to Group 8 of schedule 4 of the 1972 Act. Item 2 of group 8 provides: "The supply, in the course of the construction, alteration or demolition of any building or of any civil engineering work, of any services ... Notes: ... (2) Item 2 does not include — (a) any work of repair or maintenance."

Mr Simon D. Brown and Mr Nicolas Bratza for the commissioners; Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr David Pannick for the company.

LORD ROSKILL said that the appeal raised directly one short point of construction of group 8, but it also raised, albeit indirectly, a second point of construction on which Lord Denning and Lord Justice Ackner expressed their views, albeit obiter.

The provisions of schedule 4 both before and after amendment by the 1976 Order were concerned with zero-rating for the purposes of VAT. Group 8 of that schedule specified three items, each numbered, which qualified for zero-rating, with notes.

The commissioners assessed certain underpinning work done by the company to VAT in the sum of £1,072. The company appealed but the VAT Tribunal in London dismissed the appeal. Mr Justice Drake allowed the company's appeal as did the Court of Appeal.

The single short point of construction was whether the underpinning work described was "repair or maintenance". If it was, it was not zero-rated but positive-rated.

Mr Brown urged that the meaning of "alteration" in item 2 in the context in which that word there appeared meant "structural alteration" and he urged that if that contention, rejected below, were right it not only supported his submission on the true construction of the phrase "any work of repair or maintenance" in note 2(a) but vitiated much of the reasoning of the Master of the Rolls in the latter part of his judgment.

In one sense it might be said that that point did not arise since Mr Brown rightly conceded that the underpinning work was in any event a "structural alteration", and therefore even if the construction of the word for which he contended were correct, that prerequisite to zero-rating required by the wording was in any event satisfied.

But since he urged that the determination of that true construction was essential to the proper interpretation of note (2), and that the views of the majority of the Court of Appeal, albeit obiter, could have far reaching and perhaps unintended effects, the House should now determine this matter as well as the other.

The meaning of "alteration" in this context had arisen in a previous VAT case, *Customs and Excise Commissioners v Morrison Dunbar Ltd* ([1979] STC 406) a decision of Mr Justice Neill. He had said that in dealing with a case to which item 2 of group 8 was said to apply, one should look first to see whether the supply of the services in question was a supply in the course of the construction, alteration or demolition of a building and that each of those words was important and should be given its proper weight. As "alteration" was between the other two words, the alteration to which item 2 applied was an alteration of the building and one which therefore involved some structural alteration.

In the Court of Appeal in the present case Lord Denning said he could not agree with that passage and that the adjective "structural" should not be inserted. Lord Justice Ackner agreed with him. Lord Justice Brandon expressed no opinion.

His Lordship agreed with Mr Justice Neill's view. If the contrary view were right, the repainting of a house in a different colour would be an "alteration", a conclusion which in this context could not be sustained. His Lordship therefore accepted Mr Brown's contention on that issue.

On that basis note (2) should be construed so that for the relevant work to qualify for zero-rating two requirements must be satisfied. It must be a "structural alteration" and it must not be "any work of repair or maintenance". The first requirement was by concession satisfied.

As for the second, the argument in the courts below appeared to have proceeded on the basis that the words "repair or maintenance" were used in antithesis to one another. Indeed, it was conceded that underpinning could not be said to be a "repair" and therefore the only question was whether it was maintenance.

His Lordship thought that Mr Brown's concession on that point below was wrongly made. The two words were not used in antithesis to one another. The phrase was a single composite phrase "repair or maintenance", and in many cases there might well be an overlap between them, as there might also be between "structural alteration" and "repair or maintenance".

Mr Brown contended that underpinning was "repair or maintenance" because it was done to stop the buildings falling down.

In the courts below there was much reference to decisions in disputes between landlords and tenants arising from repairing covenants in leases where contractual obligations to repair and maintain had been assumed by tenants towards their landlords. In his Lordship's view those decisions shed little or no light on the construction of the statutory instrument now in question.

On the central question his Lordship found the reasoning in Lord Justice Brandon's judgment compelling. He had said: "... the work was not done to any existing part of a building; it was entirely new work. It involved a radical and fundamental alteration to the construction of the building as it had been before. It involved an extension of the existing building in a downward direction. Such work ... is not capable of coming within the expression 'maintenance' in the ordinary and natural meaning of that word ...".

Like Lord Justice Brandon his Lordship stressed that that was new work which converted buildings which, apart from that work, would have had a short life, into buildings which as a consequence became endowed with a long life.

He declined to define "repair or maintenance" but left those ordinary words in common use to be given their ordinary meaning. Where there was room for dispute that would be a question of fact or degree for the tribunal of fact to determine.

Lord Diplock, Lord Elwyn-Jones, Lord Keith of Kinkel, and Lord Scarman agreed.

Solicitors; Solicitor for Customs and Excise; Herbert Smith & Co.

Citizen's duty to prevent breach of peace

Albert v Lavin

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Scarman and Lord Roskill

[Speeches delivered December 3]

Every citizen in whose presence a breach of the peace was being or reasonably appeared to be about to be committed had the right and the duty to take reasonable steps to make the person who was breaking or threatening to break the peace refrain from doing so, and those reasonable steps in appropriate circumstances included detaining him against his will.

The House of Lords so held in dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Mr Cleeve Albert, from a reserved judgment of the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Donaldson and Mr Justice Hodgson) (*The Times*, December 5, 1980; [1981] 2 WLR 1070). The Divisional Court had dismissed an appeal by Mr Albert by case stated against his conviction by Brentford justices of assaulting a police officer, PC John Lavin, in execution of his duty.

The Divisional Court certified that the following point of law of general public importance was involved: "Whether a person charged with an offence of assault may properly be convicted if the court finds that he acted in the belief that facts existed which if true would justify his conduct on the basis of self-defence but that there were in fact no reasonable grounds for so believing."

When Mr Albert's appeal came on for hearing, it was not argued further (*The Times*, November 21) in circumstances explained by Lord Diplock.

Mr Ronald Walker and Mr Roger McCarthy for Mr Albert; Mr John Hazan, QC and Mr John Reide for PC Lavin.

LORD DIPLOCK said that the case was much simpler than it had been made to appear to the magistrates and the Divisional Court.

The relevant facts were that as a result of incidents that occurred when Mr Albert tried to jump the queue at a bus stop, PC Lavin, who at the time was at the head of the queue, off duty and in plain clothes, had, as the magistrates found, reasonable grounds for believing a breach of the peace to be imminent unless he obstructed Mr Albert from boarding the bus out of turn. Mr Albert's conduct thereafter, while he was being restrained by PC Lavin, during the course of which PC Lavin said that he was a constable, was found by the magistrates to have amounted to a continuing breach of the peace.

After being told that PC Lavin was a constable, a statement which the magistrates found that Mr Albert in his excited state had honestly but unreasonably disbelieved, Mr Albert struck PC Lavin five of six blows in the stomach. That constituted the assault on a constable in the execution of his duty for which PC Lavin arrested him and of which he was convicted by the magistrates.

On those facts and findings, the magistrates had stated a case raising two questions of law for the opinion of the High Court:

"... whether: (i) a constable who reasonably believes that a breach of the peace is about to take place is entitled to detain any person without arrest to prevent that breach of the peace in circumstances which appear to him to be proper; (ii) a person being detained in [such circumstances] but who does not accept that the person detaining him is a constable may be convicted of assault on a constable in the execution of his duty if he uses no more force than is reasonably necessary to protect himself from what he mistakenly and without reasonable grounds believes to be an unjustified assault and false imprisonment".

If in the first question "reasonably" were inserted before "appear", the answer to each question was "yes".

Unfortunately, in the Divisional Court the appeal had proceeded on the basis, apparently undisputed by either party, that there was only one exception, to what Mr Justice Hodgson, giving the main judgment, called "the well-established principle that to detain a man against his will without arresting him is an unlawful act and a serious interference with a citizen's liberty", namely, where the detention was effected by a constable in the execution of his duty.

That had led the judge into a lengthy and erudite consideration of what had to be the state of mind of a person charged with assault in order to enable him to rely on the defence of a mistaken belief that facts existed that justified the assault as the exercise of lawful right of self-defence of which he would have been entitled to avail himself if the belief had been correct.

That consideration had involved reference to more than a score of reported cases on mens rea, "subjective" and "objective" tests and related topics, which had led Mr Justice Hodgson to the conclusion that there had to be reasonable grounds for the mistaken belief if it was to be relied on as a defence.

With the correctness of that the House was not concerned. The question at which it had been directed simply did not arise. What had been overlooked in the argument in the Divisional Court and in the parties' written cases before the House was that to the well established principle referred to by Mr Justice Hodgson there was an equally well established exception, not confined to constables, that was applicable to the instant case.

It was that every citizen in whose presence a breach of the peace was being, or reasonable appeared to be about to be, committed had the right to take reasonable steps to make the person who was breaking or threatening to break the peace refrain from doing so, and those reasonable steps in appropriate cases would include detaining him against his will.

At common law that was not only the right of every citizen; it was also his duty, although, except in the case of a citizen who was a constable, it was a duty of imperfect obligation.

On the magistrates' findings, that exception had plainly been applicable to the instant case. It had been drawn to counsel's attention at the opening of the appeal when their Lordships had pointed out that the House could not deal with the appeal on the basis of an erroneous assumption as to the applicable law.

After an adjournment, counsel for Mr Albert had conceded that on a correct view of the law he could not pursue the appeal. Even if Mr Albert's belief that PC Lavin was a private citizen and not a constable had been correct, it would not have made his resistance to PC Lavin's restraint of him lawful.

The question certified by the Divisional Court was a hypothetical one on which it had not been necessary, and would not have been proper, for their Lordships to hear argument, and they should decline to answer it.

Lord Simon, Lord Keith, Lord Scarman and Lord Roskill agreed.

Solicitors: Somers & Leyne Ealing; Mr R. E. T. Birch.

Warrants with no notice

Regina v Chichester Justices, Ex parte Collins
Regina v Dewsbury Justices, Ex parte Simpson

A magistrates' court was not required to give further notice before issuing a warrant of commitment where it had previously in the presence of the applicants fixed a term of imprisonment for the non-payment of a sum adjudged to be paid and postponed the issue of the warrant on conditions which were not complied with, Mr Justice Woolf, sitting with Lord Justice Ormrod, held in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on December 2.

HIS LORDSHIP said that both applicants had contended that the failure to give notice before the warrants of committal were issued amounted to a breach of the rules of natural justice. However, although a warrant was issued as a judicial act, there was no need for any judicial order to be pronounced.

In those circumstances although it would be necessary for the court to satisfy itself that the conditions of postponement had not been complied with, the process was not one which fell within the principle referred to in *R v Brighton Magistrates' Court, Ex parte Hamilton; R v Marylebone Magistrates' Court, Ex parte Forrest* (*The Times*, June 18; [1981] 3 WLR 79) that adequate notice should be given to an offender before making any judicial order against him so as to give him the opportunity of making representations to the court.



Nato welcomes Spanish initiative to join alliance

From Frederick Bonnart, Brussels, Dec 3

Spain could be the sixteenth member of Nato by next spring. The way was opened last night when Dr Joseph Luns, the Nato Secretary-General, was handed a letter from Señor José Pedro Perez-Llorca, the Spanish Foreign Minister, intimating that Spain was ready to be invited to join. Dr Luns welcomed the Spanish initiative on behalf of the North Atlantic Council, which was rapidly convened.

The letter was delayed for 24 hours as, according to a senior diplomat at Nato, some of the member governments, in particular the Greeks and the Dutch, had to reassure their oppositions who felt that the inclusion of Spain at this stage would upset the East-West balance.

The council announced today that foreign ministers will have the opportunity of making their views known at the meeting of the North Atlantic Council next Thursday when, as a next step, a protocol of accession will be drawn up and considered by ministers.

This protocol is then due to be formally signed during a plenary session of the council which will probably be attended by Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, who is attending the meetings in his capacity as Defence Minister. The Spanish Foreign Minister is also being invited.

Thereafter the protocol will be sent to the other member countries for ratification in accordance with their individual national constitutional processes. It is hoped at Nato that this will be completed in time for Spanish ministers to be able to participate in the 1982 spring ministerial meetings.

The immediate importance of this move for Nato is political, according to senior diplomats here, as the adherence of a new democratic country to the Western alliance at this time demonstrates the Western will to maintain its ideals and values.

The practical details will only be negotiated later; but it is expected that Spain will wish to participate in the integrated military structure like all member countries except France. This is felt to be of special importance at present when there is doubt about the Greek position.

The Spanish Navy and Air Force would be the country's main contribution to Nato. With their modern equipment and training, they would fit in well with other allied forces and have an important role to play in the Atlantic and in the Mediterranean, particularly in anti-submarine operations which continue in peace and war.

Nato would then have forces in the existing Iberian Atlantic Command, under the Supreme Commander Atlantic, and others in a possible Western Mediterranean Command under the Southern European Command in Naples.

For geographical reasons there is unlikely to be an immediate task for the Spanish Army although, following the Portuguese example, it could earmark a brigade or division for operations in Europe from permanent bases in Spain.

Russia sees entry as inevitable

From Michael Binyon Moscow, Dec 3

The Russians have campaigned long and hard against Spanish membership of Nato, but for some time have regarded the country's participation in the organization as inevitable.

Moscow has given Madrid several blunt warnings over the issue. In September the Soviet Chargé d'Affaires in Madrid handed over a Note which said Spanish membership affected the interests of the Soviet Union and wide-ranging security interests in Europe and beyond.

The Note said Spain's membership in an alliance, which the Russians have repeatedly denounced as an aggressive block, would increase international tension. The Note was rejected as interference in Spanish affairs.

On Monday *Pravda* said the decision to join Nato was being taken against the wishes of millions of Spaniards. It said membership would "lead to a heightening of tension on the Continent and in the world, to a spiralling of the arms race".

Since Moscow reestablished diplomatic relations with Madrid in 1977 a number of incidents have strained the new relationship. Several Soviet diplomats have been expelled for spying and the Russians have been accused of supporting the Basque separatist group ETA.

Moscow has not been able to call on the support of the Spanish Communist Party, which has taken a defiant stand on several important ideological issues and is one of the leaders of the Eurocommunist movement.

In effect, however, the Russians have long regarded Spain as an integral part of the Western defensive block because of its bilateral defence treaty with the United States.

Military and strategic balance of forces

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The value of Spain to Nato lies in where it is as much as what it *is*; a country whose armed forces last saw a battlefield more than 40 years ago in the civil war.

With 342,000 in uniform, their strength closely resembles that of Britain's three services. But two out of every three Spanish servicemen is a conscript fulfilling his 15 months military obligation to the state.

The proportion is higher in the Army which has 190,000 conscripts in a total strength of 255,000, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies in its latest edition of *The Military Balance*. Altogether about 100,000 young men start national service every year.

Spain is divided into nine military districts which are garrisoned by the territorial defence forces of the Army.

They are responsible for the defence of that district, while the spearhead of any operations against a national enemy either at home or abroad is formed by the Intervention Forces which are formed into a corps with three divisions, one armoured, one mechanized and one simply motorized without armoured vehicles.

Spain has a foreign legion with three regiments which are all-regular and all-Spanish (unlike the French Foreign Legion which as everyone knows is full of other nationals who are trying to forget).

The foreign legionnaires form a high proportion of the 19,000 troops which, according to *The Military Balance*, are still stationed at Ceuta and Melilla on the Moroccan coast. Nearly 6,000 other troops are in the Balearic Islands at any one time and 19,000 more are in the Canary Islands.

American aid, in return for military basing rights, has helped Spain to bring its services up to date in the past two decades. Most of the benefit has been felt by the Air Force and Navy, mainly because they were in the greatest need.

As a result the Air Force has now more than 190 warplanes, including mainly French-built Mirages and American F4s for air defence and American F5s for ground attack. Three years ago a plan was also announced to procure some of the latest American F14s, F15s and F16s in the 1980s, although no mention was made of the numbers involved. A separate air command exists in the Canaries.

The Navy, though, has been described as the best equipped of the services with eight submarines and 29 surface warships. Certainly it is the Navy and the Air Force which will be most welcomed by Nato.

A modern air defence network called *Combat Grande*, consisting of a chain of long-range radar stations to detect aircraft approaching the Spanish coast and then relay the intelligence to the air base at Torrejon, near Madrid, will also fit in with Nato. But it is the country's geo-strategic position, as well as the political boost, that the alliance will most appreciate.

The United States has already used facilities in Spain under the series of bilateral agreements, now in the process of being renegotiated. American air bases exist still at Torrejon and Zaragoza, while Moron is a stand-by base for emergencies.

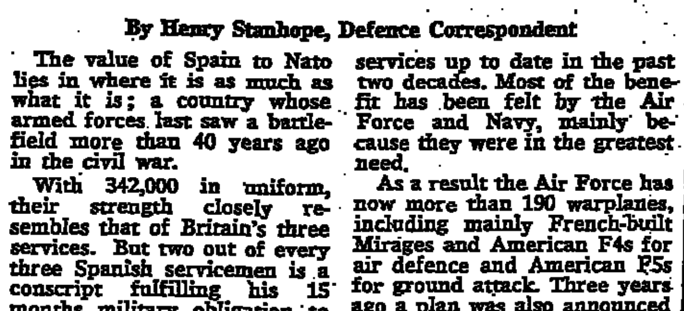
But Rota, once an important naval base used by ballistic missile submarines is now mainly a resupply depot and anchorage for crews seeking rest and recreation, with American Orions sometimes flying out of the accompanying airfield.

But the Spanish have been anxious to demonstrate in the past that they should not be taken for granted. Already they have made it clear that even when in Nato they will not allow Spanish territory to be occupied by nuclear weapons. Full membership, however, will formalize its relationship with the allies, most of whom will regard this alone as cause for celebration.

Army:
Manpower 255,000; 700 main battle tanks (AMX30s, M47s and M48s and more AMX30s on order); 1,750 artillery guns (varying calibres); 590 armoured cars and troop carriers; anti-tank missiles (Milan, Cobra, Dragon); air defence, Nike Hercules, Improved Hawk, 480 anti-aircraft guns.

Navy:
Manpower 49,000 (including 10,000 marines); 8 submarines; one ex-United States aircraft carrier; 12 destroyers, 16 frigates; 90 patrol craft. Naval aircraft include 15 Harriers and Sea King helicopters.

Air Force:
Manpower 38,000; 110 interceptors; 41 ground attack; 9 recce. Other ground attack in Canaries.
Reserves: 1,085 in all services.



Suspicion of foreign alliances harks back to Franco era

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Dec 3

Señor Adolfo Suárez, the former Prime Minister, whose personal background gave him an instinctive sense of how many ordinary Spaniards feel, always postponed taking the "inevitable" decision on joining Nato.

Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the present Prime Minister, took the realistic view that Spain's geography and *de facto* links with the Western alliance through the late General Franco's bilateral treaty with the United States required full integration of Spanish democracy into Nato. He declared it the very day he presented his candidacy as Prime Minister to Parliament nine months ago.

But the change in Spain's foreign and defence policies should not be underrated however much diplomats in Brussels will refer in coming weeks to "Spain finding its rightful place in the defence alliance of the Western democracies".

General Franco did not invent Spanish isolation, he exploited it essentially to save his own regime. Spain's armies and navy have not fought a single war to defend their homeland since Napoleonic times. Though in the First and Second World War Spaniards privately sympathized with one or the other side their country did not undergo the profound forging process of a national war effort.

The result, and this has overshadowed the debate as the Calvo Sotello Government steered the Nato issue through Parliament this autumn, is a public opinion with a strong hankering for not becoming "involved in foreign alliances".

Some observers believe that the Spanish Socialist Party leaders, uncomfortable over their objection to Spanish entry, caculated that opposing the Government over Nato would help to prepare the party's acceptance by sections of the nationalist lower middle classes at the next general election.

The ordinary Spaniard's ignorance about Nato, coupled with the way the Americans exploited the facilities accorded them by Franco's 1953 Treaty of Friendship, has created popular suspicion. This explains why the Government refused to agree to opposition demands for a referendum before joining. It will also complicate Spain's effectiveness in Nato.

The Spanish authorities' current mood is optimistic over Gibralta but the refusal of the majority of Nato partners to consider guaranteeing Spain's two ancient enclaves on the Moroccan coast, Ceuta and Melilla, helps both the Socialists and the isolationists to maintain that Nato does not solve Spain's real defence problem on its southern flanks.

Abroad more than inside Spain, it is often said that joining Nato will help the new democracy to avoid the risks of a latter-day Franco staging another military coup.

Unfortunately for Nato, the debate over joining has coincided with fresh coup rumours and worrying incidents underlining that Spain lacks a tradition of armed forces subordinate to civilian rule. This helped to swell the recent sizable anti-Nato demonstration of the Socialists and Communists.

Spain's integration into Nato ought to be watched closely by the other allies both for the internal effects on the Spanish armed forces with their own traditions and, externally, for the consequences for Portugal, a Nato founder-member, with its own valuable contribution



Closed city: Israeli settlers guard the entrance to the town of Yamit, in Sinai, which is due to be handed over to Egypt next April, in protest against the slow pace of negotiations over their compensation.

Text of US-Israel strategic accord

Washington.—Here is the official English text of the "Memorandum of understanding between the Government of the United States and the Government of Israel on strategic cooperation", signed in Washington on November 30:

PREAMBLE

This memorandum of understanding reaffirms the common bonds of friendship between the United States and Israel and builds on the mutual security relationship that exists between the two nations. The parties recognize the need to enhance strategic cooperation to deter all threats from the Soviet Union to the region.

Noting the long-standing and fruitful cooperation for mutual security that has developed between the two countries, the parties have decided to establish a framework for continued consultation and cooperation to enhance their national security by deterring such threats to the whole region.

The parties have reached the following agreements in order to achieve the above aims.

ARTICLE I

United States-Israel strategic cooperation, as set forth in this memorandum, is designed against the threat to peace and security of the region caused by the Soviet Union or Soviet-controlled forces from outside the region introduced into the region. It has the following broad purposes:

A. To enable the parties to act cooperatively and in a timely manner to deal with the above mentioned threat.

B. To provide each other with military assistance for operations of their forces in the area that may be required to cope with this threat.

C. The strategic cooperation between the parties is not directed at any state or group of states within the region. It is intended solely for defensive purposes against the above mentioned threat.

ARTICLE II

1. The fields in which strategic cooperation will be carried out to prevent the above mentioned threat from endangering the security of the region include:

A. Military cooperation between the parties, as may be agreed by the parties.

B. Joint military exercises, including naval and air exercises in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, as agreed upon by the parties.

C. Cooperation for the establishment and maintenance of joint readiness activities.

D. Other areas within the basic scope and purpose of this agreement, as may be jointly agreed.

2. Details of activities within these fields of cooperation shall be worked out by the parties in accordance with the provisions of Article III below. The cooperation will include, as appropriate, planning, preparations, and exercises.

ARTICLE III

1. The Secretary of Defence and the Minister of Defence shall establish a coordinating council to further the purposes of this memorandum:

A. To coordinate and provide guidance to joint working groups.

B. To monitor the implementation of cooperation the fields agreed upon by the parties within the scope of this agreement.

C. To hold periodic meetings, in Israel and the United States, for the purposes of discussing and resolving outstanding issues and to further the objectives set forth in this memorandum. Special meetings can be held at the request of either party. The Secretary of Defence and Minister of Defence will chair these meetings whenever possible.

2. Joint working groups will address the following issues:

A. Military cooperation between the parties, including joint United States-Israeli exercises in the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

B. Cooperation for the establishment of joint readiness activities including access to maintenance facilities and other infrastructure, consistent with the basic purposes of this agreement.

C. Cooperation in research and development, building on a cooperation in this area.

D. Cooperation in defence trade.

E. Other fields within the basic scope and purpose of this agreement, such as questions of prepositioning, as agreed by the coordinating council.

3. The future agenda for the work of the joint working groups, their composition, and procedures for reporting to the coordinating council shall be agreed upon by the parties.

ARTICLE IV

This memorandum shall enter into force upon exchange of notification that required procedures have been completed by each party. If either party considers it necessary to terminate this memorandum of understanding, it may do so by notifying the other party six months in advance of the effective date of termination.

ARTICLE V

Nothing in the memorandum shall be considered as derogating from previous agreements and understandings between the parties.

ARTICLE VI

The parties share the understanding that nothing in this memorandum is intended to or shall in any way prejudice the rights and obligations which devolve or may devolve upon either government under the Charter of the United Nations or under international law. The parties reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their aspiration to live in peace with all countries in the region.

Doubts remain over European reaction to statement on Sinai

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Dec 3

The Israeli and American Governments tonight issued the text of their joint statement about the Sinai peacekeeping force which is intended as a compromise to avert a threatened Israeli veto on the participation of contingents from four European nations.

Earlier in the day the text had been unanimously approved at a special session of the Israeli Cabinet. It will now be relayed by Israeli ambassadors to the foreign ministers of Britain, France, Italy and the Netherlands.

According to today's Cabinet decision the four EEC Governments *will be* requested "to confirm the acceptance of the principles detailed in the statement".

There was uncertainty tonight about how the Europeans will react. But one European diplomat in Tel Aviv emphasized that the future of European participation would depend on the type of acceptance which Israel is looking for. "The ball is still very much up in the air", he said.

As expected, the statement emphasized that the basis of participation in the multinational force is the peace treaty originating in the Camp David accords and the protocol signed this summer by Egypt and Israel.

The text notes that none of the four European countries have attached political conditions to their participation. It adds that there can be "no derogation or reservations" from the terms of the treaty and protocol by any other participating forces.

The joint statement continues that the United States understands Israeli concern at the statements made by the Europeans and recognizes that some of the European positions are at variance with the American and Israeli stand on the future of the peace process.

The statement adds: "The United States and Israel recognize that the positions held on any other aspects of the problem in the area by any state which agrees to participate in the multinational force do not affect the obligation of that state to comply fully with the protocol."

The two governments conclude by reiterating their own commitment to Camp David as "the only viable and ongoing negotiating process". They make a joint pledge of determination to make progress in the negotiations on Palestinian autonomy which are still in a state of deadlock.

□ Washington: American officials said they did not expect any problem over Britain, France, the Netherlands and Italy accepting the principles contained in the statement as a basis for their participation in the peacekeeping force (Nicholas Ashford writes).

They said that the joint statement was issued with the expectation that it would facilitate the participation of the four European countries in the force.

The officials said that Egypt had been informed of the joint declaration. It was not a legal document and did not alter documents which provided the basis for the Sinai force.

□ British concern: Officials in Whitehall expressed some concern that the Europeans who have tentatively agreed to take part in the peacekeeping force are now apparently being asked to approve a new explanation of their role (David Cross writes).

The British, who have been keeping in touch with Washington while the Americans have been trying to persuade the Israelis not to reject European participation, were hoping that no further action would be required of them.

Settlers protest with arson

From Moshe Brilliant Tel Aviv, Dec 3

Businessmen in the Sinai town of Yamit last night burnt five buildings that were to fall to Egypt in April when the last third of the occupied pennisula is evacuated.

The businessmen said that arson was part of their campaign to protest against the Government's offer of compensation which they said was "contemptuous".

The protesters also welded three barriers to the fenced-in desert town and attached signs reading: "This is only the beginning". Approaches to the town were blocked with barbed wire and iron spikes were driven into the road.

However the blockage was not complete. People were able to enter or leave the town on foot through a gap in the fence. Supplies were delivered that way and an orchestra reached the town from Netanya and played from a watchtower.

The anger erupted yesterday after a meeting in Jerusalem with Mr Simcha Ehrlich, a Deputy Prime Minister, who offered an aggregate of £7m for 100 businessmen. The businessmen demanded twice as much. The Government has already reached an agreement to pay £8m to 325 residents for their homes.

The police surrounded the town today but took no action to break the obstruction. Militant residents forecast a confrontation and said they were buying gas masks in preparation.

COMPOSER DIES

Hershy Kay, a composer and arranger famous for his ballet scores and orchestrations of Broadway shows, died at Danbury Hospital, Connecticut, of heart failure. He was 62.

West Bank delay angers MPs

From Our Own Correspondent Jerusalem, Dec 3

The leader of a delegation of six British MPs intends to press Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, to deliver a strong protest to Israel about the treatment meted out to them during an eight-hour wait to cross into the occupied West Bank from Jordan today.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Tony Marlow, the Conservative MP for Northampton North, claimed that the party had been refused permission to contact British diplomats, they had been subjected to "maximum harassment" by Israeli troops, and had been denied food and drink.

When the delegation arrived at the Allenby bridge at 9.30 am to begin a two-day tour of the West Bank, they were first refused entry. Several hours later this decision was reversed after sharp exchanges between the British Embassy in Tel Aviv and the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

Although the Israeli officials claimed "technical reasons" had caused the delay, British sources believe that it was a deliberate snub because the delegation of Conservative and Labour MPs was touring the Middle East at the invitation of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In addition to Mr Marlow, other members of the party were Mr Peter Lloyd (Con, Fareham), Mr Hugh McCartney (Lab, Dumbartonshire Central), Mr Robert Parry (Lab, Liverpool, Scotland Exchange), Mr James Pawsey (Con, Rugby), and Mr Dennis Canavan (Lab, Stirlingshire West).

As diplomatic exchanges about the treatment of the MPs continued through the day, it became clear that the incident has further soured relations between Britain and Israel.

Americans in Oman worry Gulf

By Edward Mortimer

Saudi diplomatic sources were unable either to confirm or to deny yesterday a report in the *Washington Post* that Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states have offered the Sultanate of Oman \$1,200m (about £610m) to cancel its agreement allowing the United States access to military facilities.

The report, citing an unnamed "high Saudi government official", said that the offer was made last month during the meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council in Riyadh.

While the offer as such cannot be confirmed, and as reported seems a little too crude to be true, it is certainly true that the other Arab Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, are unhappy about the publicity which Oman's military cooperation with the United States has attracted. Kuwait in particular feels very strongly that it is important to keep both superpowers out of the region.

The Saudis are usually less inhibited about making clear their preference for the United States as against the Soviet Union.

But they were very anxious to secure Kuwait's agreement to defence cooperation among the six.

Infant black homeland is born to an unpromising future

From Michael Hornsby, Bisho, Ciskei, Dec 3

A dust-blown hilltop, on which perch a half-finished 20,000-seat stadium and an incomplete hangar-like parliament building, are all that so far exist of Bisho, capital of Ciskei, which becomes "independent" at midnight with the firing of a 101-gun salute, and the chiming of church bells.

The insubstantial quality of its capital city says much about Ciskei, an artificially created mini-state of some 3,200 square miles. Most of its population (a disputed concept in itself) probably live outside its frontiers, which do not yet exist as they are still being negotiated with the South African government.

Ciskei is the fourth of the black tribal homelands to accept "independence", a status recognized nowhere else in the world. In Pretoria it is seen as a further step towards the apartheid goal of carving 10 separate black "nations" out of 13 per cent of South Africa's land.

As an economic unit Ciskei is pitifully ill-equipped for independence of any kind. It has no natural resources, cannot feed itself, and is dependent on South African aid for four-fifths of government revenue. Forty per cent of the male labour force work as migrant labourers outside its borders, and their wage earnings constitute 65 per cent of national income.

Even on the ethnic argument used by the South Africans to justify "separate development", Ciskei is a dubious concept. Its inhabitants are indistinguishable from the Xhosa-speaking people of Transkei, the first of the homelands to accept self-rule. Chief Matanzima, Transkei's ruler, has denounced Ciskei's independence as a device to split the Xhosa nation.

To make any sense at all as an economic entity, Ciskei would, as a minimum, have to include the nearby industrial centre of East London, Berlin and King William's Town, where most Ciskeians work. All these remain in white hands. Although on the coast, Ciskei has no port.

Chief Lennox Sebe, the Chief Minister of Ciskei, and soon to be its new President, believed he had a firm promise from Pretoria that King William's Town at least would be incorporated into Ciskei and serve as its capital. But in the face of implacable opposition from the town's white inhabitants, the South Africans went back on earlier pledges. Hence the hurried construction work at nearby Bisho.

Chief Sebe decided to accept independence against the recommendation of an independent commission he himself had appointed under Professor George Quail of Johannesburg. In a referendum in Ciskei last year, as he never tires of pointing out, 98 per cent of those voting favoured independence.

That figure, however, bears some examination. Ciskei's internal population is put at about 660,000. Of these, some 503,000 were registered to vote. About 40 per cent of the electorate stayed at home.

In the week before the referendum, students and trade union leaders opposed to independence were detained. In a pre-referendum speech Chief Sebe gave a warning that anyone who "betrays the nation" by casting a "no" vote would be thrown into prison. Such warnings are not taken lightly in Ciskei.

In addition, some 1.4 million Xhosas who live outside the Ciskei are technically bound by the results of the referendum, and at midnight will become Ciskei citizens whether they like it or not. Up to 700,000 could eventually be liable for forcible "repatriation".

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Flags fly at half mast in Quebec

Canada's enduring dream of having its own constitution was well on its way to realization following the overwhelming approval of the enabling resolution by the House of Commons (John Best writes from Ottawa).

But while most Canadians celebrated Mr René Lévesque, the Quebec Premier, ordered the provincial flag—featuring the fleur de lys—lowered on all provincial buildings until Monday "as a symbol of mourning and protest" after the Commons voted 246 to 24 for a measure to bring home the constitution from Britain with some new features added.

The constitutional resolution is now in the Senate, where debate is expected to last a few days, but where, as in the Commons, the government's Liberal majority assures its passage. After that, possibly some time next week, it will be sent to Westminster.

Falkland talks in Geneva

Talks on the future of the Falkland Islands are to be held between Britain and Argentina in Geneva on December 18 ad 19.

A joint communiqué published in London and Buenos Aires said the talks would be attended by two representatives from the Falklands. Last September, the islanders voted overwhelmingly in favour of remaining British.

During earlier talks, Britain said it wanted the problem resolved "peacefully by negotiation" but a Foreign Office spokesman explained yesterday that the wishes of the islanders remained "paramount".

EEC control on chemicals agreed

Brussels.—A European Community regulation aimed at preventing accidents on the scale of the Flixborough explosion was agreed by environment ministers here. The so-called "Seveso directive" covers 178 chemical substances of which 26—such as bromide, ammonia and hydrogen—are considered particularly dangerous.

Creating the competent authorities to enforce the new directive is expected to take about another 18 months. The authorities will have to monitor the installation of any new plant involved in the manufacture or storage of the chemicals and to ensure advance consultation.

Neighbouring countries will have the right to be involved in the consultation process. This was the point which blocked agreement since 1976.

Rubbish piles up in Manhattan

New York.—The Waldorf Astoria Hotel is storing rubbish on its roof. The Hotel Berkshire Place is storing it on the pavement where the pile is 4ft high and over 50ft long. Shiny black plastic bags creating a mysterious new art form are spreading along many streets in mid-town Manhattan and in Chinatown. Soggy cardboard cartons are overflowing with restaurant scrapings all over the city.

The dustmen are on strike. Not, this time, the sanitation workers employed by the city of New York, who cart away residential refuse, but the private carriers who deal with effluence from restaurants and commercial establishments including private nursing homes.

Murdered Chinese 'rehabilitated'

Peking.—Chinese Communist Party members from Hebei province, killed or persecuted during the Cultural Revolution after accusations that they were linked with a cooperation attempt between the party and the Kuomintang, have been officially rehabilitated.

Mao's former political secretary, Chen Boda, was jailed last January for having unleashed a campaign against the East Hebei party in which 2,955 people lost their lives.

Reagan unworried by Libyan assassins

Washington.—President Reagan believes it is possible that Libya may be sending gunmen to assassinate him but he is not very concerned about it. He told reporters: "I think in view of the record, you can't dismiss them out of hand ... but they're not going to change my life much."

William Holden's will

Los Angeles. — William Holden, the film actor, who died last month, left \$250,000 (£125,000) to his longtime companion, Stefanie Powers, the actress, according to details made public here. Miss Powers aged 39, co-stars in the television series, *Hart To Hart* with Robert Wagner whose wife, Natalie Wood, drowned last Sunday.

Afghanistan denial

Islamabad.—As the death toll from the helicopter attack on a Pakistan border post in Baluchistan has risen to seven, Afghanistan "categorically" denied responsibility.

S Africa hunger strike

Pretoria.—Visiting privileges on Robben Island, where most of South Africa's political prisoners are held, have been withdrawn because of a hunger strike.

Solidarity heads try to avoid clash with state

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Dec 3

The leaders of Solidarity, Poland's independent trade union movement, held emergency talks outside Warsaw today amid signs that many of its regional chiefs want to back away from a head-on clash with the Government.

The meeting was called as a first angry response to a police raid on the Warsaw fireman's academy yesterday morning intended to end a students' sit-in. The raid was decribed by Solidarity today as brutal and several activists in the Warsaw branch, as a result of the action, have questioned the Government's sincerity in seeking a power-sharing arrangement with Solidarity.

But the praesidium meeting, of all the union's regional heads in Radon, outside Warsaw, had, by most accounts, a rather moderate tone. While Warsaw Solidarity leaders apparently argued for a hard line against the Government — the 900,000 members of the Warsaw chapter are still on strike alert — other regions wanted to water down the union response.

Above all Mr Lech Walesa, head of the whole organization, repeatedly emphasized that the popular anger at the raid should be channelled into gaining greater concessions in talks with the Government rather than a renewed bout of strike action.

Addressing a crowd of 2,000 people in Warsaw last night, Mr Walesa said: "The struggle is only beginning today, but that is why it is required of us that we should fight with true determination and foresight. We cannot let our nerves get the better of us although that's what someone obviously wanted; that we would probably lose control, that there should be a fight which we would probably lose in the end".

The actual circumstances of the raid make Mr Walesa's attempt to secure a moderate line somewhat easier. Although a huge number of paramilitary police were involved in the storming of the building — some 6,000 including support troops — nobody was injured or physically threatened.

In addition, about a dozen Solidarity members who were helping the students with their sit-in were released by the police after only brief questioning. That suggests the police are under strict instructions to avoid any action that might provoke labour unrest.

However, even the moderate voices in Solidarity believe that the talks on forging a front of national unity have become much more difficult as a result of the raid. The Government is still insisting that as a first stage to a coalition front, a council of seven parties and organizations should be set up. This council would include the Polish episcopate, the official trade unions, the Communist Party and two other small parties apart from Solidarity.

Solidarity believes that this would seriously dilute its role and would ultimately allow the party to overrule it in any serious economic or political decision.

Meanwhile, there is still substantial discontent among Poland's students who are pressing for the ratification of a liberal higher education Bill

British aid helps Poles left out in the cold

A large lorry carrying 14,000 bars of British soap and an assortment of food should this weekend be driving into a small Polish town near Poznan (Roger Boyes writes).

The consignment comes by courtesy of the Ockendon Venture, a British charity, which has been collaborating with Oxfam and rotary clubs to gather food, drugs, soap and other items needed by the Poles.

Polish lorries, which have brought exports to Britain, deliver the British aid on return to Poland and take it to clinics and children's hospitals.

It is difficult to estimate what the aid is costing, but even charity officials admit it is only a drop in the ocean.

The shops are particularly bare outside Warsaw. Industrial towns like Lodz are having great problems securing meat, vegetables and fruit — and it is easy to forget that parts of Poland once ranked as the bread basket of Europe.

Officials argue, with some justification, that the main problems do not actually lie in production shortfalls — the country had a particularly good harvest this year — but rather are caused by panic buying.

Hoarding is a traditional problem in Poland but the current shortages are also caused by poor distribution and the country's precarious financial standing.

The rich can buy goods on the black market and the workers can make use of factory canteens, but the poor, the pensioners and the sick are left out in the cold. It is these people whom the Western charities are trying to cater for.

End to rapprochement that never was

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Dec 3

Is the honeymoon between President Mitterrand and Mrs Margaret Thatcher, already over, only a couple of months ago after the smiles of the Franco-British summit in London? The question is legitimate when one reads the very negative verdict on Britain expressed by M Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, in an interview with *Le Monde* this week.

Asked whether the attempt at a Franco-British rapprochement in the first weeks of M Mitterrand's turn of office had stopped short, the minister replied: "No, the attempt has not stopped short. But the rapprochement has not taken place. This confirms the very considerable difficulties which Britain is experiencing. There is no rapprochement between her and anyone."

He had seen Lord Carrington once a week on average, and was in touch with him by telephone or otherwise every other day. "But there is no rapprochement because Britain is going through an extremely serious crisis and is taking up specific attitudes in European affairs. At the European Council meeting, the British thesis was defended by nobody," he added.

The contrast is striking between this disillusioned statement and the fulsome terms in which he referred to Britain when he met Lord Carrington in Paris last May immediately after the Socialist Government came to office. "Throughout my life", he said the time, "I have had close relations with Britain; a country for which I have great admiration. Britain and France have all sorts of fundamental things in common."

Although the new French Government disclaimed any intention of substituting a Franco-British privileged relationship for the Franco-German entente, which inevitably suffered from the end of the personal friendship between Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, and President Giscard d'Estang that the talk of the town before the summer.

The good personal rapport which President Mitterand succeeded in establishing from the start with Mrs Thatcher was surprising, but understandable. There could be no misunderstanding between them about their respective political convictions, and they both had a preference for plain speaking.

But this distinct improvement in the climate of personal relations at the summit, which was genuine, did not suffice to dispose of the substantial and enduring conflict between the two countries over the shape and role of the European Community.

As he showed in London last week, a left-wing President can prove just as determined as his right-wing predecessor in championing the interests of French taxpayers and farmers, big and small; as hostile to a limitation of expenditure on agriculture by the Community, and to a long-term system of compensation for Britain's budget contribution; and as ready to try to isolate the British from their other European partners — though not so successfully as M Cheysson claimed in the *Le Monde* interview.

Underlying M Cheysson's insistence on Britain's economic difficulties is his reasoning that these will compel Mrs Thatcher, for electoral reasons,to compromise on Britain's budget demands before France is itself confronted with the moment of truth — the structural reorganization of its agriculture, which a meaningful reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and a reduction of its cost inevitably entails.



Out of step even last September: President Mitterrand visits Mrs Thatcher

US mayors attack Reagan's policies

From Michael Hamlyn, New York, Dec 3

Mayors of American cities, meeting in outraged conclave in Detroit, have sent urgent signals to the President saying that his policies are threatening immediate civic breakdown.

The protests are coming from both Republicans and Democrats, and have been particularly vociferous from one who ran on both tickets, Mr Edward Koch, the Mayor of New York. He bitterly attacked the Pesident's policies, called the new federalism "a sham and a shame", and said that the withdrawal of the government from the needs of the cities was a systematic campaign of abandonment.

The consequences, according to the newly-elected mayor, would be "the further decay of our cities, the poor growing poorer, a decline in the education of our population and a more lonely and poorly serviced elderly".

Mr Koch was speaking at the annual convention of the National League of Cities, a gathering of officials from small and medium sized cities, not usually graced with the presence of such important metropolitan figures as him. But he told *The New York Times*, in an interview on the way there, that he intends to make more such forays, particularly as the 1982 congressional elections draw close.

His speech was in distinct contrast to his approach during the mayoral elections here, when he told electors that Mr Reagan had a mandate from the voters last November to cut taxes and spending.

Other expressions of anxiety — in particular over proposals from Mr David Stockman, the Budget Director, to kill the capital aid programme for cities, came from other hard-pressed municipalities.

Mr Stockman's plan was unofficially revealed on Monday. It would do away with all new spending after 1983 for two major programmes amounting currently to $4,200m (about £2,100m) and divided among 2,850 cities and towns across the country.



Schmidt counters peace lobby

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, having a word in the ear of Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, in the Bundestag yesterday. Herr Schmidt appealed to the so-called peace movement not to undermine the Soviet-American talks on limiting European nuclear weapons that opened in Geneva this week (Our Foreign Staff writes). In a speech on President Brezhnev's visit to Bonn last week, Herr Schmidt emphasized the need for an East-West security partnership based on a balance of forces. He is to meet Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, next Friday. "Those who accept military inferiority may reach a position where they beg in vain for negotiations", he said.

Haig journey reflects concern over Caribbean

From Jeremy Taylor, Port of Spain, Dec 3

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, reflecting the Reagan Administration's revived interest in the Caribbean, was due to deliver a keynote address today to the General Assembly of the Organization of American States meeting in the Caribbean island of St Lucia.

The arrival of such a heavyweight figure in a region traditionally regarded as an American sphere of influence underlines America's growing concern about Cuban activities in the Caribbean and Central America and the threat of internal instability in an area of real strategic importance to the United States. But if, as is widely expected, Mr Haig's main interest is the ideological threat to the region, he risks antagonizing the Caribbean as much as soothing it.

As American interest in the region has revived, a serious difference of perception has opened up between Washington and regional capitals about development strategy. While Washington has emphasized security and private sector investment, the Commonwealth islands have insisted that the danger lies in the structural economic problems of their tiny economies.

Since 1973, energy costs have increased tenfold, investment has been restricted, productivity has been falling, wage demands have risen along with inflation and export markets have become more difficult. All the Caribbean's traditional exports, from bauxite to bananas, have been damaged by recession, low prices and diminishing outlets.

Dr Kennedy Simmonds, the Premier of St Kitts-Nevis, told the fifth Caribbean Conference on Trade, Investment and Development in Miami last week: "The problems of the Caribbean are economic, not ideological. They cannot be solved by guns or bullets. They can be solved by investment, employment, development assistance, education and communication."

Private sector initiatives, Dr Simmonds argued, must be part of a wider programme that helps public sector development and expansion of infrastructure too. There is striking agreement on that, even across the ideological dividing lines.

Mr Unison Whiteman, the Foreign Minister of the People's Revolutionary Government in Grenada, says he will be trying to force the St Lucia conference to face the real issues of the region which he defines as poverty, unemployment, low commodity prices and the concept of the Caribbean as a zone of peace, adopted by the OAS in 1979.

Scepticism about the American obsession with ideology extends to the proposed Caribbean basin initiative, sponsored by the United States with Canada, Mexico and Venezuela. It is aimed at channelling development aid into the region

Weinberger in Rabat

King Hassan plays the American card

From Godfrey Morrison, Rabat, Dec 3

The visit to Morocco today by Mr Caspar Weinberger, the United States Defence Secretary, is proof that King Hassan, assailed by serious domestic problems and growing international pressures, has decided to play the "American card".

By providing his armed forces with new sophisticated weapons, the Americans may enable him to regain the initiative in the desert war against the Polisario guerrillas, but they cannot provide him with what he and his country needs most — rain.

The war against the Polisario Front, which wants to make the former Spanish Sahara an independent state, has received considerable publicity, as have the increasing international pressures on Morocco at the United Nations and in the Organization of African Unity to reach a political settlement.

But if anything, the war, which is seen by Moroccans of almost every political complexion as a holy national cause to hold on to what they see as historically part of Morocco, cements national unity.

The country's dire economic plight is quite another matter. It usually rains here in the autumn and early winter and last year's meagre rainfall produced a grain harvest of about two million tonnes, half the average crop.

Peasants deprived of their livelihood flocked to the towns, particularly Casablanca, the country's commercial capital, which is now surrounded by shanty towns.

In June, a rise in basic food prices caused a labour dispute and violence in which several hundred people are believed to have died.

This autumn, there was virtually no rain in October and November to allow the planting of crops and even early December is brilliant and cloudless.

In Casablanca estimates are that about 75 per cent of the adult males are unemployed or underemployed in part-time jobs such as car-minders or newspaper sellers. A Western diplomat said: "Casablanca is an enormous tinder box which would not require much to make it burst into flames.

In the countryside the situation continues to deteriorate with drinking water prices increasing and the deepening drought and lack of feed resulting in increased slaughter of herds and an exodus to the towns. Even in Rabat.

Compared to most Arab and African coutries, Morocco has an open political and economic system but the growing problems have led to measures against the Socialist opposition party, the USFP. Its newspaper has been closed down and three senior members, including their leader, Mr Abderrahim Bourbid, have been detained.

Their offence was criticism of the King for what they saw as excessive concessions on the Sahara issue at the OAU. He has promised a referendum in the territory and on this issue the Socialists, like the small Communist Party, are *plus royaliste que le roi*.

King Hassan's dispute with the Socialists has complicated his relations with France, Morocco's traditional supporter and main trading partner. The French Socialist Party has demanded that their Moroccan counterparts should be released.

Even though this demand, which was seen here as unacceptable interference in Moroccan domestic affairs, did not come from President Mitterrand, it has inevitably cooled relations with his Government and has led to some unease among the 50,000 French people living here, the largest French community outside France.

The Moroccan Government has watched this week's cordial visit by President Mitterrand to Algeria with something less than enthusiasm. Morocco broke off diplomatic relations with Algiers more than five years ago because of the Algerians' support for the Polisario Front, and relations are still cool.

It is against this background that President Reagan's Administration has stepped into the scene. There can be few geographical areas where the American Administration's forthright policy of identifying friend and foe is more evident than in North Africa.

The American oil company Exxon, with Washington's encouragement, has pulled out of Libya, while Washington has shown solidarity with Egypt and Sudan through the "Bright Star" joint military manoeuvres.

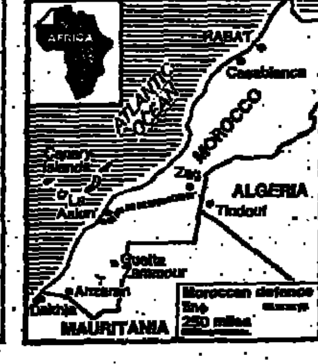
Mr Weinberger's visit is only one of a series. Mr Francis West, the Assistant Defence Secretary, has been here twice in the last month, pledging continued support for King Hassan in the war against the Polisario guerrillas.

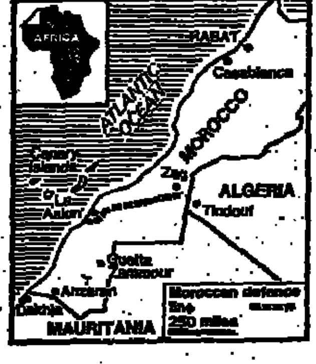
Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, is due here in a couple of weeks; General Vernon Walters, President Reagan's special roving envoy, has been here three times; and King Hassan is expected to visit Washington next month.

Finally, Admiral Bobby Inman, the Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, called on the King in Fez two days ago.

The war against the Polisario guerrillas is not going too well. Moroccan troops are fighting a defensive campaign.

After several months' lull the war flared up in October when the Polisario guerrillas took the outpost of Guelta Zemmour in a battle during which they shot down four Moroccan aircraft.





ECEVIT JAIL TERM STARTS

From Sinan Fisek Ankara, Dec 3

Mr Bulent Ecevit, the former Prime Minister of Turkey, today began serving a four-months prison sentence for having defied a military ban on political activities. He said that he would "rather be a free prisoner than a prisoner living outside jail".

Mr Ecevit had led the now defunct Republican People's Party. His offence was having handed foreign reporters in Ankara a letter critical of the National Security Council's decision to close down political parties. He told reporters today: "There is a price to pay for freedom. What I am paying is a very small price."

Indian judicial system on verge of breakdown

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Dec 3

A man who has spent 30 years in jail awaiting trial has been released on the orders of the high court in Patna, in the state of Bihar, Eastern India.

Although his experience is extreme, it is an indicator of the desperate condition of the Indian judicial and penal system: Tens of thousands of people wait in prison for years with little hope of their cases coming to court.

An Indian judge has said that "our legal system is on the verge of collapse, living on borrowed time."

The case of the 30-year detainee was unearthed by a civil liberties group. The man, Mr Ram Chandra, was arrested in March 1952 for attempted murder, but the case records were later missing. The lawyer who sought his release said in court this week that the authorities had shown "callous indefference."

It has been estimated that about 100,000 people are in jail awaiting trial in India. The sheer pressure of numbers, incompetence, a harassed bureaucracy and the extraordinary length of legal proceedings has condemned many to hopeless years

There have been large-scale releases of people who have spent more time in prison than the maximum sentences that might have been imposed for their alleged offences, but the problem remains.

Some people stay in jail because they are too poor to raise bail.

BLOOD SENT BY PIGEON POST

Paris. — Two French hospitals have solved their problem of how to send blood samples for analysis to a laboratory 11 miles away as rapidly as possible. They are using carrier pigeons.

A team of 22 pigeons has been organized for the 15-minute flight between the two hospitals at Granville and the laboratory at Avranches, northern France.

Norwich made to speed up council house sales

RIGHT TO BUY

Norwich City Council is to be forced to sell its council houses to those tenants who wish to exercise their right to buy. Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, announcing this in a statement, said he was exercising his powers under the 1980 Housing Act.

Mr Heseltine said: I have today sent a notice to Norwich City Council that I intend to use my powers under section 23 of the Act to intervene to assist secure tenants of the council to exercise their right to buy their homes. I have taken this very serious step with the greatest reluctance and only after prolonged correspondence and discussions with the council over many months.

Complaints about delays and difficulties from individual Norwich tenants began to reach my Department in February of this year. Accordingly in April the Council was formally asked for information on their past and expected future progress in dealing with right to buy cases.

Since May, as well as extensive correspondence, there have been three separate meetings with the council—one at official level, one with the Minister for Housing and Construction (Mr John Stanley) and one with myself. During this period complaints have continued to come in from tenants about delays and difficulties in exercising their right to buy.

It appears that tenants currently have to wait a very long time, of the order of a year, before they receive a section 10 offer notice and delays can occur thereafter before completion is achieved.

On July 28 a formal warning was sent to the city council that I was contemplating using my powers of intervention under section 23 of the Act. Following the meeting with me on November 5 the city council forecast that outstanding valuations (which are required before section 10 notices can be issued) should be completed by June, 1982, but with the possible exception of some cases which they identified as difficult. One hundred and one cases were referred to at the November meeting as difficult.

At the end of October the city council had admitted the right to buy in only 884 cases, a smaller number of cases than in many authorities, but still had 652 offer notices to send out. Notwithstanding adjustments which have been made to the monthly rate of issuing section 10 "offer" notices and the revision of some of their procedures, the city council's performance to date in issuing section 10 notices is among the worst of all authorities whose progress has been taken up by my department.

Moreover, their projected future performance on which they have declined to give any assurance of further improvement appears to me worse than that of any other authority who have been given formal warning that I am contemplating using my powers under section 23.

Having considered matters very carefully it appears to me, whether I have regard to Norwich alone or Norwich in comparison with other authorities, that secure tenants of Norwich city council have or may have difficulty in exercising their right to buy effectively and expeditiously and I have accordingly sent them a notice of intervention. (Conservative cheers).

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, (Manchester, Ardwick, Lab): His high-handed action is completely unjustified. Following months of negotiation which have wasted the valuable time of his own officials and those of Norwich city council, Norwich has taken many steps to speed up its action under the Act, including several actions demanded by Mr Heseltine himself. Offer notices are now going out at seven times the rate of earlier in the year. (Conservative laughter.)

The difference in time between Mr Heseltine's demands on offer notices and the ability of Norwich to comply now boils down to some four months. How does he justify his intervention as housing commissioner?

Why has he decided to pick out as scape-goat one of the most responsible and progressive housing authorities in the country when the latest figures he presented to MPs three weeks ago showed that 53 Conservative-controlled local authorities had sold no houses whatever and 19 Conservative controlled authorities had either made no return or nil returns under the Act, including the local authority of Mr John Stanley (Tonbridge and Malling).

His statement is not the last word on the matter, since Norwich council intend to test his action in the courts.

In two and a half years he has forced up council rents by 117 per cent and mortgage rates are at an historically record high level, unemployment in the building industry is higher than ever before and the housing programme is at its lowest ebb since before the First World War.

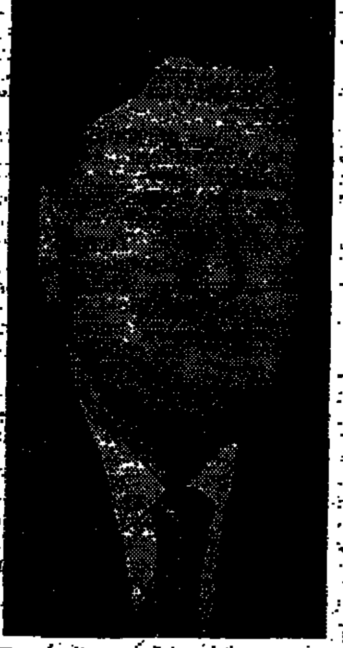
Why is he wasting time on this petty distraction when he should be devoting all his energies to ending the housing shambles that he has created? Why is he worried about a pebble in his shoe in the middle of the avalanche he has created?

Mr Heseltine: Far from being high-handed, I have gone to considerable lengths in meetings, which in the end I have held myself, to avoid the need for intervention.

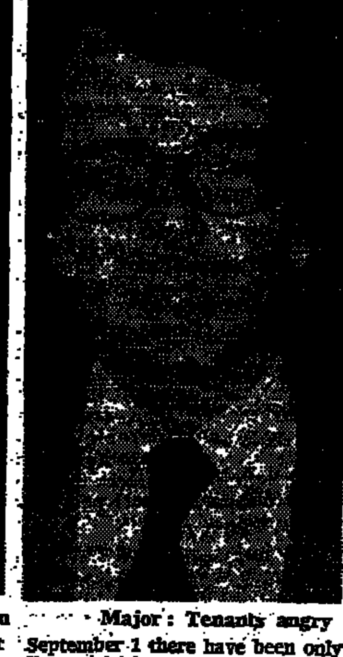
When he says that the rate of issue of section 10 notices is seven times what it was earlier in the year, MPs may ask what was the rate earlier in the year.

His point about only four months does not take into account that this refers only to straightforward cases. No timetable has been given for those cases which are not straightforward. A possible challenge in the courts is a matter for the city authority and they must make up their own minds on that.

He always comments about Mr Stanley's constituency. That authority is not selling under the right to buy at all because it is doing so on a voluntary basis under the original arrangements that applied before the right to buy.



Kaufman: 'Political discrimination'



Major: Tenants angry

The figures are that 385 applications have been received, 28 have been withdrawn, leaving a net 357 which are still extant. Offers have been made in respect of 30 others which is 85 per cent of those who applied.

He goes on, with the characteristic denunciation of our whole approach. But he regards the right to buy as of such significance that he has persuaded the Labour Party to promise to remove from all council tenants the right to buy.

Mr David Ennals (Norwich, North, Lab): Norwich city council is carrying out the right to buy provisions both efficiently and expeditiously. (Conservative laughter). Some of his statistics on the number of evaluations that have been carried out are incorrect. Last month they completed 90 evaluations from 90 offers for tenants.

There are other local authorities — Tory controlled — whose record is substantially worse than that of the city of Norwich. Since September 1 there have been only five criticisms or complaints received from city council tenants. Why has he picked on Norwich? It is an act of political discrimination.

Mr Heseltine: The statistics upon which I have to operate are those provided by the city authority. The reason I have had to act in the case of Norwich is because I consider it to be among the worst in applying the rights of its tenants and that fact has been reinforced by the number of complaints from the tenants themselves that I have received.

Mr John Major (Huntingdonshire, C): I spoke at a public meeting in Norwich earlier this year when hundreds of tenants were bitterly angry at the way their applications to buy have been treated. They will warmly welcome his statement. Mr Kaufman should come to the despatch box and request local Labour councils throughout the country to comply with the present law.

Mr Heseltine: I am sure Mr Kaufman would want all authorities to comply with the law. I would be more concerned for him to remove some of the barriers to better housing policy which his party is now imposing on the whole housing scene.

More spending means more taxes

EXPENDITURE

Mrs Margaret Thatcher answered criticism of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's economic package during questions by repeatedly saying that demands for more public spending and benefits were also demands for increased taxes and contributions.

She told MPs that the tax and prices index would rise by between 1 and 1½ per cent as a result of Sir Geoffrey Howe's measures.

Mr Timothy Brinton (Gravesend, C): It is ironic that in a week when this House heard a statement from the Chancellor that the House has also been lobbied by the young jobless, by teachers and by members of local government. Do not these diverse interests illustrate the direct conflict before the nation?

What advice would she give to us to place before my constituents if public spending continues to rise at the present rate?

Mrs Thatcher: He has put his finger on two points. First, if those in the public sector demand more and more pay for themselves for doing the same amount of work there will be less money with which to provide jobs for the unemployed.

If people go on demanding more and more public spending for their constituents they are, at the same time, demanding more taxes and contributions from their constituents.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition: Would she answer the question which the Chancellor did not answer yesterday? How much will the measures introduced yesterday increase her own taxes and prices index?

Mrs Thatcher: Between 1 and 1½ per cent.

Mr Foot: With increases of that scale and increases on rents, rates, health charges and national insurance contributions how does she think that is going to assist the fight against inflation?

Mrs Thatcher: He always tries to have it both ways. He always poses as the person who can hand out benefits to his constituents and then refuses to allow the supply to pay for those benefits.

If he demands more benefits for his constituents he is at the same time demanding higher contributions to pay for those benefits.

Mr John Browne (Winchester, C): Would she accept that the private sector, both corporate and individual, are becoming increasingly alarmed at being forced to pay, not only the monopolistic prices, but also the finances of the public or socialistic sector of the economy, and that they are looking for really strong and urgent privatisation?

Would she please assure us that those hopes are not in vain?

Mrs Thatcher: The efficiency of the private sector has gone well ahead of the efficiency of the public sector and consequently the price increases in the private sector are much below those price increases in the public sector.

That is one reason why we are taking powers to free more of the public sector to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and one reason why we are going ahead with more measures to privatise things like BNOC and taking away the gas monopoly.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, L): What advice will the Prime Minister give to students following yesterday's announcement by the Chancellor, given that some of their unavoidable costs, such as hall fees, have gone up by 40 per cent in the last three years, and the allowance being given to them next year is only a fraction of the Government's estimate for inflation?

What about low income families with sons and daughters at colleges and universities?

Mrs Thatcher: Students' grants will go up by 4 per cent. If Mr Steel wishes them to go up more than that he must say what else he would cut or what other increases in tax he would impose. (Conservative cheers.)

Inquiry into bone marrow units

HEALTH SERVICE

The Government is looking at the future development of bone marrow transplants and a working party under *Sir Donald Black* is to consider the need for further units outside London, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time.

She replied sharply to a Labour interruptor who accused her of "hardness" on the health service, by declaring that there are now more nurses, midwives and doctors than under the past Government, adding: How hard very hard Labour MPs must have been.

The matter was raised by Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) who asked: Has the Prime Minister seen the report in *The Times* today about the fact that 97 young children have died waiting for bone marrow transplants at Westminster Hospital.

Is this not the most tragic commentary about the operation of market forces and monetarism? Why will she not show some compassion for once and give a categorical assurance that sufficient means will be given to the regional health authorities involved, so that doctors in those hospitals are not placed in the dilemma of having to choose one child to live out of seven.

Mrs Thatcher: I saw that report and was as concerned as Mr Skinner. Since the Labour Government, spending on the health service has increased. The number of doctors has increased by 1,000, the number of nurses and midwives by 21,000.

In a report by Professor Merrison on the future of the health service it was pointed out that we could spend about the whole of our gross national product on health care, such is the advance in technology and the expense of doing some of those operations.

A Labour MP: You are hard.

Mrs Thatcher: Twenty one thousand more nurses and midwives than under Labour, 1,000 more doctors and much lower waiting lists—how very hard Labour MPs must have been (Conservative cheers).

We all admire the excellent work by Professor Hobbs at Westminster Hospital. That is one of the few places where work on bone marrow transplants is done.

We are looking at the future development of the service, and Sir Douglas Black has agreed to chair a working party to consider the need for further units outside London so that we do not have the situation occurring again.

I hope that Mr Skinner will have the grace to be pleased (Loud Conservative cheers).

Mr Toby Jessel (Richmond upon Thames, Twickenham, C): As the Army Board is due tomorrow (Friday) to consider the future of military bands—(laughter)—will the Prime Minister bear in mind their tremendous value, not only to Army morale and recruitment but also its role in royal and other occasions, and in lifting the spirits of the nation—(renewed laughter)—is the envy of the entire world. It attracts visitors here and helps the balance of payments.

Mrs Thatcher: I endorse what Mr Jessel says about the popularity and importance of military bands and their popularity overseas. They are also trained as medical orderlies and have another role as well.

I shall draw the attention of the Defence Department to what Mr Jessel says.

People told to pass on information

ULSTER

Reconciliation between the two communities in Northern Ireland could not be achieved by people trying to take the law into their own hands, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during questions on the security situation in Ulster.

Private armies had no place in society, he went on, and would not be allowed to take over the work of the security forces. Appropriate action would be taken if it was proved that members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Ulster Defence Regiment had taken part in so-called third force demonstrations.

I am determined (he said) that terrorism will be defeated, but it must be done through the rule of law. We are entitled to expect all right-minded people to lend their full support to the established forces of law and order, and to make available any information they may have which could help prevent or detect criminal acts.

He added that he was grateful for the support he had received from churchmen of all denominations recently and for the pressure they had brought to bear on the community.

Reporting on the situation, Mr Prior said extra measures had enabled the security forces to concentrate on the border areas. Everything possible was being done to protect those most at risk, but a good deal inevitably depended on the vigilance of such persons themselves.

The security forces were working extremely hard to prevent further terrorists attack, from whatever quarter. They had had important preventive successes, which by their nature are inevitably unseen. They continue to arrest suspects. Since October 29, 102 people had been charged with terrorist offences, making a total of 865 charged with such offences this year.

Mr Michael Brotherton (Louth, C): Today there is a report that various officials of the United States ares coming to London to discuss the problem of Northern Ireland with Mr Prior's department.

Will he make it plain that the problems of Ulster are the problems of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and nothing whatsoever to do with any other foreign power? (Cheers)

Mr Prior: I am certain that this is just an entirely speculative piece. I am certain the Americans understand the point he has made, as much as the rest of the House has done.

Sir John Biggs-Davison (Epping Forest, C): Since he has ruled out selective detention, will he ask the Foreign Office to renew their efforts in Dublin to secure either extradition or an efficacious alternative, because the people of this country will not be content forever to listen to his melancholy communique in a hundred years' war?

Mr Prior: The Irish Government have not been left in any doubt about our views on extradition. So far, extra-territorial legislation has not been effective, but we are seeing encouraging signs that this is changing, and I am hopeful talks between the two Attorneys General will result in further action.

But anything that can be done to put pressure on the Irish Government in respect of criminals who take refuge in the South should be done.

Mr Hilary Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch, C): Would Mr Prior confirm that the situation is such that there is no place whatsoever for another so-called third force?

Does he realize the concern not only in Ulster but on this side of the water at the prospect of such a force being allowed a free reign?

Mr Prior: Yes, I confirm what Mr Miller has said and I think that would be the view of the whole House. I believe the availability of information is the most important method and way in which we can bring criminals to justice, and the more that both communities get on with this, the quicker we shall solve our problems.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab): There is certainly no support in this House or the country for the bullying, intimidating manner in which those associated with the third force speak. These sort of actions are certainly to be repudiated.

Mr Prior: I am seeking to pursue a policy in which the majority and the minority in Northern Ireland live at peace with each other. No one should say anything which would make that task more difficult.

Mr James Molyneaux, leader of the Official Ulster Unionists (South Antrim): We have played our part in devising mechanisms entirely within the law to provide a channel of communication so that information can be conveyed to the security forces.

Will Mr Prior refute reports circulating to the effect that special security measures announced on November 17 are to be reduced next Wednesday?

Can he assure us that this time the security forces will be encouraged to finish the job of eliminating terrorism from whatever source it comes? As the RUC is rapidly approaching its recruitment target, will he recommend it be increased by another 1,000?

Mr Prior: If the police authority or the chief constable put proposals to me about increases in the size of forces, I shall of course consider them carefully. I believe it is not only the open side of security that is important, but also covert as well.

I have no thought at the moment to make any change in the distribution of forces in Northern Ireland. That is still a matter for consultation between myself, the GOC and the chief constable. I warmly welcome all the information that is available to us.

Mr Donald Concannon, for the Opposition, (Mansfield, Lab): I have always thought the security forces are as good as the information they receive. The best way of receiving information is if that great block of people in Northern Ireland in between the two extremes see a ready response to their pleas for social, economic and political activity as well.

Prior: Defeating terrorism through rule of law

Mr Prior: I have always believed there are three parts of a tripod which could lead eventually to peace and greater security in Northern Ireland. The most important part of that tripod must be security.

I am grateful as well for the support I have received from churchmen of all denominations recently and pressures they are bringing to bear.

Mr Stephen Ross (Isle of Wight, L): While extradition is obviously desirable it is not likely to be achieved in the foreseeable future for many complicated reasons. Cooperation between the security forces North and South of the border is of the essence.

Mr Prior: Cooperation is much better, but it is never perfect. The talks between the Attorneys General can do a great deal more to help. The Government of the Republic is more aware now than it was of the strong feelings in the North and in this House about criminals in the South.

Mr Gerard Fitt (Belfast, West, Soc): In the measures he undertakes to defeat terrorism in Northern Ireland—and terrorism is not restricted to one section of the community—will he be ever mindful that there is fear and concern in the minds of the minority about the creation of the third force in Northern Ireland?

Will he give an undertaking that anyone in Northern Ireland found in an illegal assembly and wearing a mask, whether in the IRA or the so-called third force, should be arrested immediately?

It has been stated that members of the third force are also members of the UDR and the RUC. Will he give a further undertaking that anyone waving a licence or so-called licence permitting them to hold arms legally, if they are found to be members of the third force, will have those legally held arms withdrawn?

Mr Prior: The Chief Constable and the GOC will investigate allegations that members of the RUC and UDR have taken part in so-called third force demonstrations carrying their weapons. I am certain that any appropriate action will be taken if it is proved that has been the case.

It is far better that, having laid down the general principles from this House and Government, that we should leave the interpretation of the law to the Chief Constable and GOC in whom I have the utmost confidence.

Mr James Kilfedder (North Down, UU): Mr Prior congratulates himself smugly on the messages of support from various bodies in Northern Ireland on his security policies, but he is not going to get any congratulations from the relatives of those foully murdered or maimed by the IRA.

It is high time the Government did something after 13 years to protect the lives of people who live daily and nightly under the fear of death.

Mr Prior: I said that the Catholic Church and the churches in Northern Ireland generally were playing an active part in advising people to give information in the way perhaps they have not before.

I hope that Mr Kilfedder will do all he can to help me to bring about peace and reconciliation.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab): The Rev Ian Paisley will constantly declare his adherence to the United Kingdom but acts as though the United Kingdom is an alien Government to the North.

The actions of that MP are so opposed to any political steps taken by the Government to engage in conversations which it thinks will bring about peace, that something has to be done to prevent this kind of thing, in which the third force goes through the streets in uniform waving arms but if any members of the Catholic community did that, they would be arrested. Democracy should be even handed over there.

Mr Prior: I intend that democracy shall be even handed throughout the whole of the province of Northern Ireland.

Selective detention ruled out

Selective detention for IRA terrorists would not bring any lasting benefits, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said when asked if he would introduce such a system in view of the recent spate of murders and other atrocities in the province. Mr Prior said the best way of dealing with suspected terrorists was to bring them before the courts.

Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C): That is perhaps a not unexpected reply. Bearing in mind the representations which have been made to him by security advisers to the security forces in Northern Ireland, would he consider introducing some form of selective internment for suspected and known IRA terrorists in accordance with the request of the Official Unionist Party which is seeking to plan for moderation and progress in the province?

He has got to take positive action against terrorism to prevent murder, arson and brutality.

Mr Prior: No-one underestimates the level of terrorist violence in Northern Ireland. I am not aware of any of my security advisers having called for the reintroduction of selective detention and I am not convinced that selective detention would produce any lasting benefits.

Mr Don Concannon, chief Opposition spokesman: Labour MPs will concur. As one of the few MPs on the front bench who have had experience of running internment, and in my tiny way trying to end it, I think this would create more problems than it would sove, if it would solve any at all.

It was our experience that as soon as we had internment or detention, violence escalated at once. The only time it started to de-escalate was when we ended internment and started tackling it through the courts.

Mr Prior: It is worth noting that 1972, the year after detention was introduced, was the worst year of terrorist vilence in the history of Northern Ireland and the period from 1976 to 1980 saw a steady improvement in the security situation, although no-one underestimates how far we have to go.

Next week

The main business in the House of Commons will be:

Monday: Local Government and Planning (Scotland) Bill, second reading.

Tuesday Debate on Chancellor's public expenditure proposals.

Wednesday: Debate on Opposition motions on common fisheries policy and on lorries.

Thursday: Debate on the Scarman report on the Brixton disorders.

Friday: Private member's motion on national parks and the Countryside Commission.

The main business in the House of Lords next week will be:

Monday: Weights and Measures Orders. Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Bill, second reading. Debate on allegations of assassinations carried out by Libyan government.

(Northern Ireland) Order, Sex Bill, second reading. Debate on Poland.

Wednesday: Debate on defence.

Thursday: Civic Government (Scotland) Bill, committee.

Foot rejects Labour candidate

ELECTION

Words written by Mr Peter Tatchell, who has been chosen by Bermondsey Labour Party as its parliamentary candidate, led to sharp exchanges between a Social Democratic MP and Mr Michael Foot, who said that Mr Tatchell had not been endorsed and as far as he was concerned, never would be.

That declaration by the Leader of the Opposition was loudly cheered, particularly by many Labour MPs, with Mr Andrew *Faulds* (Warley, East, Lab) slapping his own knees loudly in applause.

Mr James Wellbeloved (Bexley, Erith and Crayford, SDP) asked the Prime Minister whether she had seen the statement by the Bermondsey Labour parliamentary candidate asking that extra-parliamentary action be taken to challenge the Government's right to rule.

Does she not agree (he went on) that such an irresponsible demand should be condemned by all who hold precious parliamentary democracy and should not be condoned by craven silence.

Mrs Thatcher: I confess that I have not seen the remarks attributed to the honourable person standing for the seat.

If those remarks were true, this House believes in parliamentary democracy and I assume that anyone wanting to come here would also believe in it.

Mr Foot: Since the matter has been raised, can I say Mr Speaker, that the individual concerned is not an endorsed member . . . (laughter and protests) . . . the individual concerned is not an endorsed member of the Labour Party, and as far as I am concerned, never will be. (Loud Labour cheers)

Since the Labour Party has played a leading part in the establishment and sustenance of Parliamentary democracy—(cheers and laughter)—we do not need any instructions on the matter from skin-deep democrats on that side or from defectors on this side. (Loud interruptions)

Later Mr Foot said: I understand that in the exchanges at the end of Prime Minister's questions I used the term "not an endorsed member". It must be clear from the context that what I wished to say was "not an endorsed candidate". Certainly, that was my intention.

Committee experiment suspended

PROCEDURE

Mr Francis Pym, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House, informed MPs, during questions on the forthcoming business, that it was not his present intention to reintroduce the special standing committee procedure, introduced as an experiment by his predecessor, Mr Norman St John-Stevas, under which witnesses could be called before committees to give evidence about Bills.

He had been asked by Mr George Cunningham (Islington, South and Finsbury, Ind) why this useful experiment with special standing committees had not been perpetuated this session.

Mr Pym: My predecessor introduced this experiment into the House. I watched the experience of the House in this experiment carefully. I have a good deal of sympathy with the idea behind it.

It is not my intention to reintroduce the standing order relating to special standing committees, at any rate at the moment. I would be prepared to do so if the Government identified a suitable Bill for the use of this procedure either in this session or future sessions.

Mr St John-Stevas (Chelmsford, C): Will he reconsider that decision in view of the undoubted success of this new public Bill procedure which must not be allowed to fall into desuetude? (Cheers) Is this not a matter for the House to decide? The House should have the opportunity to decide whether it wishes to make this procedure permanent. Will he put down a motion so that the House can come to a decision on the matter?

Mr Pym: There are various views held about this matter. There is no question of allowing it to go into desuetude. I shall keep an open mind about it. I do not at the moment see a suitable Bill for this procedure.

Correction

In the House of Lords debate on November 25, the Earl of Kimberley said that Mgr Bruce Kent, general secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, had admitted working with communists and not, as we reported, "working for the communists".

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on effects of Government policies on West Midlands.

'Little damage to national interest'

SCOTT CASE

Little damage was likely to have been caused to the national interest in the case of Mr Edward Scott, former Head of Chancery at the British Embassy in Prague, the Prime Minister said in written replies about Mr Scott.

She said that when in 1969, the prosecuting authorities decided not to prosecute, the then Foreign Secretary decided that no action should be taken on his Civil Service pension, which he had been granted on retirement in 1961.

Mrs Thatcher said Mr Scott served as Head of Chancery in Prague from 1956 to 1958.

In 1961 he was retired from the Diplomatic Service on immediate pension on the grounds that he lacked the qualities required for further promotion in the Service.

It was suspected at that time that his housemaid had had some sort of hold over him and that she had been planted on him by the Czech Intelligence Service.

Nevertheless, information that he had passed material to the Czech Intelligence Service did not become available until 1969.

On being confronted with this information he admitted to having passed a limited amount of information to the Czechs. There was no question of Mr Scott having been offered any immunity from prosecution or any inducement which might have made his confession inadmissible as evidence. The papers were submitted to the prosecuting authorities, but they decided not to prosecute.

In view of that decision the Foreign Secretary of the day decided that no action should be taken on his pension.

There was no connexion with other cases and on the evidence available, little damage was likely to have been caused to the national interest.

Drivers with epilepsy

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, announced in in written reply that he was seeking the views of representative organizations on changes in the regulations for drivers suffering from epilepsy.

These include provisions that ordinary licences may be granted to sufferers from epilepsy who have been free from attacks for two years;

Jurisdiction of civil courts expanded

HOUSE OF LORDS

Changes in the law on jurisdiction of United Kingdom civil courts, which would also have implications for other countries, were described by Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, when he moved the second reading of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Bill.

He said the measure would give effect to the Brussels Convention of 1968 on jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil disputes. Because it involved detailed alteration in internal law and parallel alterations in the law affecting relations between Britain and other countries with whom they had contractual relationships, and because Britain's law needed improving, the Bill was a necessary vehicle for the changes proposed.

This is not only a necessary but a desirable measure (he said) and an important step forward in the reform of our civil code.

The Bill would determine who might be sued in the civil courts and particularly in what circumstances a person who did not live within the area of a court might be sued in it. It would apply to almost all proceedings brought in the High Court or county court in England and Wales or Northern Ireland and the Court of Session or sheriff courts in Scotland.

The jurisdiction of our courts (he continued) will depend upon whether the defendant or the issue involved falls within a class of persons or subject matters laid down in it. Jurisdiction will no longer follow automatically from lawful service of the process but will be determined by a series of statutory rules.

On enforcement, any civil judgment given by a court in proceedings to which the convention applied was to be recognized and enforced in all other contracting states, no matter who the defendant was.

Lord Mishcon, for the Opposition, said he lamented as a lawyer the manner in which they were proliferating in different legislation vastly different interpretations of what they meant in law by residence or ordinary residence or domicile or substantial connexion with this country.

They were in danger of reaching, and might already have reached, the stage where their law in regard to these matters was a morass.

It was vital that practitioners and others should have a proper opportunity of seeing what the new law was and what were its implications before it became effective. The commencement provisions in the Bill would bring a number of provisions into force on Royal Assent.

It was wrong in principle, and this was the opinion of the Law Society, that provisions should be brought into force even before copies of the relevant statute were for practical purposes available to the public.

His personal view was that the standard commencement date of all Acts of Parliament, unless there were special considerations, should be not less than six weeks after the Royal Assent. He certainly suggested it for this Bill. The Opposition joined in giving it a general welcome.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Advocate, said though the form of Scotland's jurisdictional rules had been changed greatly, the substance would be affected remarkably little.

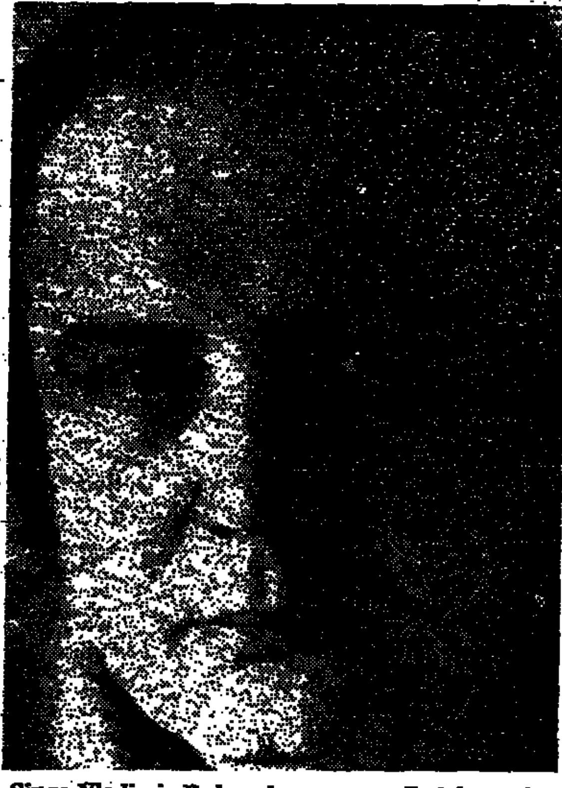
In general it would remain possible to raise actions in Scotland in the same courts as previously.

The Bill would be of considerable use not only to legal practitioners but to the commercial community.

The Bill was read a second time.

In the week that the Americans and Russians begin talks about arms reductions, Vladimir Bukovsky gives a warning to the West





Since Vladimir Bukovsky was expelled from the Soviet Union, he has tried to alert the west to the true nature of the Russian regime. Here he argues that Western nuclear disarmament movements like that led by Bertrand Russell in the fifties (left) and the revival of CND in the eighties (right) are a naive response to concerted Soviet propaganda.



Better red than dead is not good enough

I was not very surprised when suddenly, within a year of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, a mighty peace movement came into being in Western Europe. Having lived 34 years in my beloved communist motherland, I can easily predict many of their decisions, tricks, pranks and stunts. In fact, it is not very difficult to do, for the Soviet state is not a very intelligent creature, rather a huge brainless ante-diluvian reptile with a fixed set of reflexes at its disposal.

What was more amusing to observe was the apparent easiness with which mature and responsible people had fallen into the Soviet booby-trap in their thousands. It is as if history was repeating itself in front of us, giving us a chance to see how the Russian state collapsed in 1917, or how France collapsed in 1940.

Once again, the universal craving for peace at any price has rendered people illogical, irrational, unable to think calmly. Their arguments, if one may call them so, are so childish, senseless, selfish, that an involuntary smile comes to one's lips. Any intelligent discussion is impossible with them; because at best they would parrot out the old, mouldy Soviet slogans and cliches which even school children in the Soviet Union would laugh at.

To begin with, why is it that everybody started suddenly to be so apprehensive of nuclear war? What happened to make it more real than a year ago? Just because the Soviet rulers were caught cheating the West, and the new American Administration decided to change the pattern of their negotiations with the Soviets, the war is more real? But clearly, the whole history of East-West relations shows that the only way to force the Soviets to respect agreements is to be in a position of strength.

So should we say that war is more real now than a year ago just because the Soviets have got themself into a difficult position and may lose their military superiority? Should we, then, go further to suggest that the only guarantee of peace is Soviet superiority?

The Soviet-controlled World Peace Council writes in its booklet of 1980: "The people of the world are alarmed. Never before has there been so great a danger of a world nuclear holocaust. The nuclear arms build-up, the accumulation of deadly arsenals has reached a critical point. Further escalation in the arms build-up could create a most dangerous situation, facing humanity with the threat of annihilation."

But why was it not so dangerous a year or two ago? Why has it become so dangerous only now? Were not the leaders of the peace movement claiming that the nuclear potential accumulated on both sides *is* sufficient to destroy each other ten times? Is there any technical reason why "20 times" is more dangerous than, say, "5 times"? Somehow, amidst this nuclear hysteria, it *is* totally forgotten that the bombs themselves are quite harmless unless somebody wishes to throw them. So, why are we suddenly alarmed by the stockpile of hardware and not by the Soviet military move toward the Persian Gulf?

Quite suddenly a large proportion of the population has started an outcry: "Nuclear weapons are immoral!" Wait a minute. Have they just become immoral, while a couple of years ago they were all right? Are conventional weapons moral? Why has this idea just occurred to all these people?

Or take the example of the new missiles in Europe. Why *is* it more dangerous to replace the old missiles with new ones than to leave the old ones where they are? Were not the old ones equipped with nuclear charges as well? Indeed, the new ones are more accurate. Thank God they are on our side. It may make life more difficult for the Kremlin adventurers. But why should millions of people in the West see it as a tragedy and a danger?

In the depth of their hearts, the majority of these frightened people have a simple answer to all these "whys". They know that the only source of danger is the Soviet Union and anything which makes it angry is dangerous. But the fear is so paralysing as to make them totally irrational — as illogical as advocating the abolition of police forces just because criminals have become too aggressive.

Indeed, the most amazing aspect of the present anti-war hysteria is not only the timing of its start, so remarkably favourable for Moscow, but the direction of the campaign. Millions of people in Great Britain, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Belgium, France and Italy, being supposedly of sane mind, claim that the threat of war comes from . . . their own governments and the Government of the USA! Psychoanalysts would call it a Freudian replacement of a real object of fear with an imaginary one.

The facts are too obvious. One may like or dislike President Reagan or Chancellor Schmidt, but unlike comrade Brezhnev, they were elected by a majority of their populations and are fully accountable to their parliaments and to the people. They cannot simply declare a war of their own volition.

Besides, it is quite easy to see the real source of aggression. Was it American or the Soviet troops who occupied half of Germany and erected a wall in Berlin? Is it not the Soviets who occupy Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, the Baltic States and Afghanistan against the wish of the people in these countries? Are they East or West German troops which concentrate on the Polish border at this very moment?

Everything in the West is done quite openly (one might say, far too openly). But what do we know about the decisions made by 15 old fools, whom nobody elected to make these decisions and nobody can bring to account. No press are allowed to criticize them, no demonstrations to protest against them. Those who refuse to obey their secret orders disappear forever. In fact there is little difference between the Soviet system and that of Nazi Germany.

After speaking several times with the proponents of the current peace movement, I know that no logic would impress them. They would claim unabashed that there is no Soviet military superiority (it is all, as they say, CIA propaganda, the only reliable source of information for them being the KGB). Repeating word for word the old cliches from *Pravda*, they would maintain that the "crazy American generals" are so trigger-happy as to push a button just for the fun of it. (Although I never could understand why generals must be crazy — the Americans, of course, not the Soviet generals, who are, apparently, immune to craziness — and if they are, why they did not push the bloody button long ago?) Anyway, I can hardly imagine that the generals, who at least have had a good technical education, are more stupid and less equipped to understand nuclear problems than the primary school teachers and historians from the peace movement.

Some of these "peace makers" sincerely believe that as soon as the West disarms itself, the Soviets will follow suit. And with incredible naivity they ask us to try this suicidal experiment. Others are more sophisticated and know that their Soviet masters need *only* to gain time and a more advantageous position in future negotiations with the Americans. So they suggest starting negotiations first and improving the Western position later.

Some are more openly selfish and object only to the placement of nuclear weapons near their own village (town, county or the whole country) as if being protected is more dangerous than not to be. Or, better still, as if one village, town or country can maintain nuclear neutrality in the time of a modern war. "Let Americans fight the Russians," as if the whole problem of the world stems from a stupid quarrel between "Americans and Russians".

Surely, they argue, if comrade Brezhnev has promised to respect the "nuclear-free zone" in case of war, we may sigh with relief and sleep peacefully. Has comrade Brezhnev ever broken his word? Of course not. He is a most honest man, is he not? He can even guarantee the direction of the nuclear-contaminated clouds and the location of the radio-active fall-out.

"Why should the Russians attack us, if we are disarmed?" Why indeed? Ask Afghani peasants. They probably know.

There is no sense in repeating all these "arguments". In fact, to argue with the "peace lovers" is as senseless as arguing with an old hysterical lady or with Soviet propaganda itself. One thing stands out quite clearly through all their arguments: a panic fear and a readiness to capitulate in front of the Soviet threat even before the capitulation is demanded. Better red than dead. That is why the current Soviet propaganda suddenly became so remarkably successful and this peace movement is so efficiently governed from Moscow.

There is hardly any country, political party or international organization which did not condemn the Soviet aggression unequivocably (including even some communist parties). The only organization which never did, paradoxically, calls itself the "peace movement". It is equally obvious that a Soviet invasion of Poland would bring us closer to a new world war or, at least, will make relaxation of international tension quite impossible for 10 to 15 years. Once again, the only organization which did not condemn the Soviet threats to Poland was the "peace movement".

It is common sense to try to restrain both sides of the would-be conflict if we are to promote peace. But the "peace movement" is so "unilateral" that it entirely ignores "the other side", quite deliberately protecting its interests. They cry shame at the Americans for non-existent weapons like the neutron bomb, or for yet-to-be-deployed cruise and Pershings. But the hundreds of SS-20 missiles aimed at Europe do not get more than a brief mention.

At a time when a quarter of a million "peace lovers" are noisily expressing their "unilateral" feelings, thousands of young people in the USSR are imprisoned because they refuse to support the aggressive Soviet policies, because they refuse to serve in the army or shoot civilians in Afghanistan. And still in exile is the Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrei Sakharov, who has done more than anybody in the world to stop nuclear bomb tests.

Did the self-appointed "peace makers" ever say a word in support of these noble people? Never. They would happily throw stones at General Haig, but they would welcome with servile smiles Marshal Brezhnev. A good dog does not bark at its master.

There are plenty of naive and frightened people in the ranks of the peace movement. As in the 1950s, it probably consists of an odd mixture of communists, fellow-travellers, muddle-headed intellectuals, hypocrites seeking popularity, professional political speculators, frightened bourgeois and young people eager to rebel against anything. But there is no doubt that this motley crowd is governed by a handful of scoundrels instructed directly from Moscow. Just when I was about to finish this article, the news came about one of the leaders of the peace movement in Denmark, Mr Petersen, being arrested with his wife for channelling the Soviet money into the funds of the peace movement. His master, the Second Secretary of the Soviet Embassy, was expelled from the country.

Right in front of me is further proof, a pamphlet called *Programme of Action 1981*. It was published in Helsinki by a Soviet organization notorious in the 1950s, the World Peace Council, and it gives a detailed account of how this current "peace movement" was organized. It also gives precise instructions on where, when and what must be done by different groups of the "peace movement" in 1981, which is chosen to be "a year of decisive offensive of peace forces to achieve a break-through in curbing the arms build-up".

Most of the programme has already been carried out, the recent mass demonstrations being organized in Germany, France, Britain and Belgium within a framework of what is called in this Soviet booklet "Disarmament Week (October 24-31)". How on earth could the Soviets know in 1980 about the events at the end of 1981, unless they control the whole show?

As could be expected, there is a clear definition of "just" and "unjust" wars: "The policy of destabilization of *progressive regimes* in developing countries actually constitutes an aggression, waged with psychological, economic, political and other means, including armed intervention", however similar acts against "racist and facist" regimes is condoned.

In Communist Party jargon there is such a term as a "useful idiot". Now, despite all their blunders, adventures, economic disasters, the Polish crisis and stubborn Afghan peasants, Reagan's re-armament plans and UN resolutions, the Soviet rulers have scored a spectacular victory: they have recruited millions of useful idiots to implement their bankrupt foreign policy.

Subsidized trips of peace activists to the best Soviet resorts and the cost of running the campaign must be astronomical. Still, it is cheaper than another round of the arms race, let alone military superiority. And the results will be long-lasting.

Mind you, it is only the end of the first of a 10-year plan for the "struggle for peace". Within a few years the earth will be trembling under the feet of the useful idiots, for their resources are inexhaustible. Just wait and see. I remember in the 1950s, when the previous peace campaign was still in full swing, there was a popular joke which people told each other:

"A Jew came to his rabbi and asked: 'Rabbi, you are a very wise man. Tell me, is there going to be a war?' 'There will be no war', replied the rabbi. 'But there will be such a struggle for peace that no stone will be left standing.' "

Vladimir Bukovsky

The Soviet use of 'peace'

1916
Soldiers on the Russian Front urged by the Communists to desert in their 100,000s for a "justful peace without annexations", prolonging the First World War for another year, causing thousands of deaths on the Western Front.

1920
The wish for peace at any price brings to an end the Russian Civil War, which had caused the deaths of 20 million, leaving the communists in control.

1939
In the name of preserving peace, the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact was signed, allowing the Soviet Union and Germany to divide Poland between them. Britain and France condemned by the Soviet Union for declaring war on Germany. Communists in the West encouraged to sabotage war efforts.

1940
The fall of France welcomed by French communist leaders who, using German presses, urge workers to undermine resistance.

1941
Tito's call for resistance against German occupation of Yugoslavia waits until the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union.

1945
Peace in Europe amounts to surrendering a dozen countries to Soviet rule. Nato condemned as "very aggressive".

1950s
A rise in the campaign against nuclear weapons. The Stockholm Appeal and the World Peace Council organized, financed and conducted from Moscow through the "Peace Fund". Pacifist pressure on western leaders allowed the Soviet Union to catch up on nuclear arms.

1960s
Poor performance of the Soviet economy causes the Soviet Union to hatch a "detente" policy to thaw the cold war and lift pressure to spend on arms.



1971
Brezhnev launches a "peace programme", agreeing to a slowdown in arms spending if various demands met.

1975
The Helsinki Agreement confirms the "detente" plan. It concedes the post-war frontiers in Europe, including the division of Germany, increases economic, scientific and cultural cooperation. (The Kama truck factory, built by the Americans, has begun making military trucks used in Afghanistan.)

1979
Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

1980/81
New campaigns for nuclear disarmament across western Europe.

Moscow guided the rallies of the fifties

One may say with certainty that the "struggle for peace" is a cornerstone of Soviet international politics. In fact, Soviet Power itself appeared out of the ashes of the First World War under the slogan: "Peace to the Peoples! Power to the Soviets!" Perhaps at that moment the bolshevik ideologists realised for the first time what a powerful weapon is this universal craving for peace, how gullible, irrational and illogical people become as soon as they are tempted with the slightest hope for it.

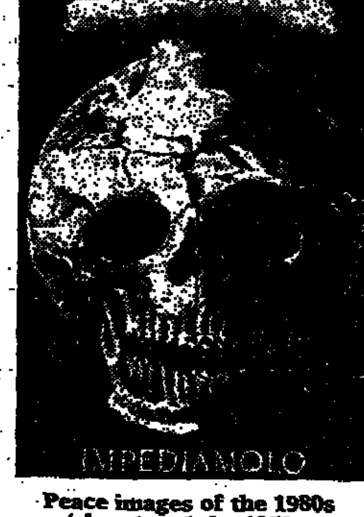
This irresistible craving for peace at any price brought the terrorized population to accept the Soviet rule as a lesser evil. Anything, but this monstrous slaughter, starvation and typhoid. Anything for some sort of order.

Unfortunately, the order established by communists meant nothing less than a permanent civil war, both inside the country and universally. Or, to be more precise, a global "struggle for peace", because in Lenin's words: "As an ultimate objective 'peace' simply means communist world control".

A resurrection of peaceful sentiments occurred shortly after the Second World War, after the Soviet Union had swallowed a dozen countries in Central Europe and threatened to engulf the rest of the continent. At that time, some "imperialist warmongers" had sounded an alarm and even suggested to increase the armaments of the capitalist countries. Due to their vicious efforts the "very aggressive" Nato alliance was created and "reactionary forces" of the world had started the "cold war".







Peace images of the 1980s (above) and the 1950s.

There were numerous marches, rallies and petitions in the 1950s (including the famous Stockholm Appeal and the meetings of the indefatigable World Peace Council). It is hardly a secret now that the whole campaign was organized, conducted and financed from Moscow through the so-called Peace Fund and the World Peace Council, where a safe majority was secured by such puppet-figures as Erenburg, Tikhonov, etc.

The purpose of all this pandemonium was quite well calculated in the Kremlin. First, both the threat of nuclear war (of which the Soviets reminded periodically by creating international crises) and the scope of the peace movement should frighten the bourgeoisie and should make them more tractable.

Secondly, the recent Soviet subjugation of Central European countries would be accepted more smoothly by public opinion in the West and quickly forgotten.

Thirdly, it creates in Europe anti-American sentiments and mistrust of their own governments, thus increasing the chance of victory for opposition parties (more left, as a rule).

Fourthly, it made military expenditures and placement of strategic nuclear weapons so unpopular, so politically embarrassing that in the end it considerably slowed down the process of strenghtening Western defences, giving the Soviets crucial time to catch up.

Fifthly, this odd mixture, mentioned above, is usually the most socially active part of a population and it is important to give it the right direction, otherwise it may by chance stray into activity harmful to the Soviet interests.

All in all, the result had exceeded all expectations and the Soviet money seemed to be well spent. The perception of the Soviet Union as an ally of the West (but not of the Nazis) was still fresh in the minds of the people and this fact, undoubtedly, has greatly contributed to the success of the "struggle for peace".

As the US Defence Secretary arrives in Morocco, Edward Heath assesses the consequences for the West of the long-running Sahara conflict

Why we must intervene in this desert war

The Middle East is not the only part of the Arab world where a territorial dispute has divided Arab states, endangered moderate leaders whose survival is important for the West, and fomented instability. There is another conflict where similar dangers are looming. It is the struggle between Morocco and the Polisario Front, backed by Algeria, for sovereignty over the Western Sahara.

This vast expanse of desert, formerly known as the Spanish Sahara, borders the north-west coast of Africa and is rich in minerals, especially phosphate. It was partitioned and occupied by Morocco and Mauritania immediately after Spain formally withdrew its colonial administration from the territory in February 1976. From the outset the occupying powers were challenged by the Polisario, a vigorous and highly astute guerrilla movement determined to win independence.

After a fierce struggle Mauritania finally withdrew from the war in 1978, following the overthrow of that country's leadership in a military coup. Morocco was then left to continue the war on her own.

Why should this little known conflict on the periphery of the Arab world be of any real concern to the West? There are at least three reasons why I believe the West should take a more constructive interest in its resolution.

First, the position of King Hassan II of Morocco, who has long been a true friend of the West and a staunch supporter of Western policy in Africa and the Middle East, may be seriously threatened by the continuation of the conflict. The King has thrown all his prestige behind a massive war effort which shows no sign of producing a victory, which has resulted in the deaths of many hundreds, if not thousands, of his soldiers, and which he himself declares is costing the country £800,000 daily, or 40 per cent of the national budget.

Second, any unsettling effect which the war might have on the position of King Hassan could drastically alter the balance of power in the region in favour of radical leaders who are opposed to moderate Arab regimes and to the West. There can be no doubt that this would facilitate the fanatical purposes of President Gaddafi of Libya and endanger the already difficult position of the leaders of Sudan and Egypt.

The unnerving effect which these developments in turn would almost certainly have on the vital oil-producing nations of the Gulf could only do further damage to the security of the region and to the prospects for an Arab-Israeli settlement. The Arab world is now emotionally, politically and ideologically such a web that any radicalism or unrest can spread like wildfire and endanger the position of moderate leaders elsewhere.



Women and children supporters of the Polisario guerrillas gather in the desert to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the outbreak of the conflict earlier this year.

Support from Moscow, Libya

Third, the longer the war continues and the more expensive it becomes for both sides, the more the Polisario may be forced to look to Libya and the Soviet Union for support. Indeed, it is already believed to receive considerable backing from these two countries.

It is a telling commentary on the short-term perspectives of our leaders in the West that few of them have ever acknowledged the potentially grave danger of failing to seek an urgent political solution in the Sahara. Once again they seem unprepared seriously to confront a looming threat to our interests.

Two alibis are often used to justify this inaction. The first holds that since King Hassan's aim to control the entire Western Sahara would have to be abandoned in any negotiated solution to the conflict that now seems possible, a diplomatic approach would simply hasten the threat to his position we wish to avoid.

I cannot accept this argument. King Hassan is by all reliable accounts a popular leader in his own country. If a compromise with the Polisario could be found soon, he would be able to show his people a gain for their sacrifices — something which will become increasingly difficult the longer the war is allowed to drag on.

Since outright military victory for Morocco is almost inconceivable, the alternatives to a negotiated solution are likely to be worse. The dangers of the first of these alternatives — military defeat — need no elaboration. The second — a series of unilateral concessions by Morocco during the course of a continuing war — could be almost as serious. Such a strategy might hasten defeat for Morocco rather than postpone it because it will embolden the Polisario's forces rather than pacify them.

This indeed seems to have been the result of King Hassan's acceptance this summer of a referendum for the Saharawis on the future of the territory, for this implicitly conceded their distinctiveness as a people as well as being a clear response to their military effectiveness. Yet the third alternative — in which the two sides are locked indefinitely in a position of stalemate — is hardly more encouraging. The demands in lives and resources which this would make of the Moroccan people will inevitably come to seem increasingly senseless to them, and as a result any eventual compromise which the King is able to strike with the Polisario will seem less and less of a reward the longer it is delayed.

The second alibi of the West for its failure to encourage an urgent and realistic political settlement is that to do so might irretrievably endanger our relations with Morocco. It is true that a diplomatic initiative by the West might generate temporary strains in the relationship; but nobody has convincingly demonstrated that the common interests and values which bind Morocco and the West together are not sufficiently deep-rooted to prevail in the end and to assure the continuity of our close cooperative relationship. In my view, there is every reason to believe that they are.

Mediation and source of ideas

It would be impossible, and certainly undesirable, for the West to insist on any particular solution or path to a solution. But we can be of crucial importance as a mediator and as a source of ideas for a settlement.

Here, the EEC has a most important role to play. Both the new Socialist Government in France and the ruling Social Democratic Party in West Germany have good working relations with Algeria and a considerable amount of support for the Polisario within their ranks. In addition, the governments of France and Germany have a history of friendship with Morocco, to which they have extended a great deal of military and economic assistance.

Britain too has excellent relations with King Hassan. Taken together, this puts the European Community in a promising position for giving a lead in finding a diplomatic solution.

The United States, by contrast, does not have such a balanced relationship with the two sides. Nor are the Polisario, Algeria or Morocco as familiar with America as they are with the old colonial powers of Europe.

It is, however, a prerequisite to any mediatory role for Europe in the Saharan conflict that we should initiate a dialogue with the Polisario at the highest official level. There is no convincing argument against doing so, either on the grounds of constitutional principle or on the grounds of political expediency. Europe is, after all, busily courting the PLO; some of our most senior officials and political leaders have engaged in extensive talks with it, and we have insisted that the PLO should participate fully in the Middle East peace process.

To talk to the Polisario would not be to recognize the state over which it claims sovereignty, just as our dialogue with the PLO does not recognize its right to sovereignty over the territory which it claims on behalf of the Palestinians.

The incessant threat of turmoil in the Middle East should have alerted us to the profound danger of allowing conflict in vital regions to smoulder on unchecked or of making ourselves irrelevant to their solution by a policy which eschews talks with one side or the other. History would surely judge us poorly if all the lessons which the Palestinian problem has so painfully taught us were now to be lost in the increasingly stormy sands of the Sahara.

David Watt

Now that the Wets have had their way

Having been in the Far East and Russia for nearly a month, I have been almost entirely cut off from tidings of Britain and may, like the friend who tells you how grey you've got, have been struck by the sum of changes that have been too insignificant to be noticed as they appeared.

The shift that I do notice particularly is that the Government's fortunes have ceased to fall and may even be on the rise. That does not mean the Conservatives have much chance of winning the next general election outright, still less that Mrs Thatcher will survive in office indefinitely. But there is a new feeling that the Government is beginning to move towards the centre, that the other parties are not invincible, and that as we peer through the thick glass of the bathysphere we can at least dimly perceive the economic bottom, even if we haven't touched it — yet.

Trying to identify the evidence that would validate these impressions is more difficult, especially after a mini-budget that has been denounced on every side as depressing continuation of Thatcherism at its gloomiest. But several elements do seem to have some real existence.

First, some sort of change of course in under way — more of a delicate curve than a U-turn, but perceptible none the less. In accordance with the advice of the Wets, the "tone" knob has been given a twist to the left. Blood and thunder is out. Several reportings of the word "flexible" were actually made during the Prime Minister's speech of the Adress.

More substantially, Mr Norman Tebbit has produced a scheme of trade union reform that is really pretty moderate — and had, astonishingly, made the cries of anguish from Congress House sound false and histrionic.

The Chancellor's performance on Wednesday did not, to put it mildly, set the pulse racing with optimism and excitement. In fact it provided another melancholy commentary on the political inadequacy of the Thatcher-Howe strategy.

The alienation of quite large sections of our society will proceed. Speaking more tactically, real personal disposable income (the most significant economic indicator from the political point of view) will fall for another year. On the other hand, one way of looking at the Chancellor's measures is to say that he has allowed the Wets to have their way by permitting public expenditure to rise in relation to expenditure on unemployment; and as for the increase in national insurance contributions and the cut in unemployment benefit, the political cynic can console himself that the victims are unlikely to have ever been Tory voters.

Again, one plausible interpretation of the Treasury arithmetic is to say that the Chancellor has given himself the opportunity for a tax-cutting Budget in the spring.

The other piece of evidence which offers some genuine comfort to Conservatives is the Crosby by-election result, paradoxical though that may seem. The Tory vote was abysmal and the seat was lost, but the Labour Party did even worse; the Conservatives were no worse off compared with their performance at Warrington or Croydon; and Shirley Williams's campaign, for all its success, began to show up the chinks in the SDP armour, particularly their lack of policies.

Taken together with Labour's collapse, the moral is that while the SLP/Liberal Alliance has obviously become the most immediate danger to the Conservatives and cannot be dismissed, like previous Liberal revivals, as a flash in the pan, the centrists are not so well entrenched that many disenchanted Conservative voters cannot be enticed back to the fold by election time.

The conventional wisdom thus begins to crystalize into a scenario in which the Conservatives manage to re-establish themslves by the election as the most powerful single party and the SDP/Liberal Alliance becomes the runner-up and/or holds the balance of power in the next Parliament. In such a case, a Conservative/Alliance coalition (an SDP coalition with Labour being ruled out almost by definition) becomes a real possibility and at least some of the levers of power remain in Tory hands. The fact that these hands would not include Mrs Thatcher's (whose head on a charger garnished with proportional representation would be the price of agreement) does not make the prospect any less alluring to many Conservatives and certainly accounts for Mr Heath's almost unseemly enthusiasm.

The weak spots in this seductive yarn consist in doubts about the economy and doubts about the SDP. If, as now seems likely, the world economy and the American economy in particular fail to start their recovery before early 1983 there is little hope of more than a minuscule real growth in the British gdp in the run-up to an Autumn '83 election — which provides the Chancellor with little scope for lavish giveaways.

But even if one assumed the best on the economic side, there is the problem that the return of Conservative voters to the fold is only half the political requirement. What is also needed is a safe bet that someone is going to prevent a last-minute Labour revival caused by a working class revolt against Thatcherite economics in general and unemployment in particular. The only possible candidates for this role are the Social Democrats, who were supposed to divert the discontent into the new, centrist channels.

But will they? At Warrington, Mr Jenkins demonstrated the SDP's ability to corral traditional Labour votes almost as well as Mrs Williams at Crosby demonstrated their ability to corral Conservative ones. But the fact that Mr Jenkins is hesitating over whether to fight Bermondsey, another old-fashioned Labour stronghold, gives the game away. He is by no means sure that his pro-EEC, Asquithian image will go down in working class London — and who shall blame him?

The way the SDP will end up facing is still an open question. If, as is quite possible, it becomes more and more middle class its chances of doing what the Tories hope of it are diminished. It is a measure of the state into which Conservative politics have fallen that the future should depend upon such remote calculations but, while the possibility remains open, the Government — or rather its less embattled supporters — can take some comfort.

Women's Hour in the sex shop

Loitering around a sex shop in the meaner streets of Camden Town is a dispiriting way to pass the time.

I was waiting for Women Only Hour!, the inspired stratagem of Conegate Limited, who claim, with 108 branches, to be Britain's largest sex-shop chain.

Although their shops seethe with women, managers as well as customers, at all times of the day, Conegate decided to provide the special concession for women who are still "too shy" to enter their shops.

The hour: 11 am on Tuesdays should confine the treat to housewives and pensioners. Conegate are the first British sex shop to have made such generous provision for female sensibilities (in America there are already shops catering exclusively for women) and so far they have been appreciated.

It was 11 o'clock; I insinuated myself into the shop with the minimum of observation. A large alsatian bounded up and sniffed at the hem of my skirt.

"Down Lady," said Andy Fish from the back of his shop. It was a disconcerting name for a dog, considering the circumstances.

The Fish premises had a structuralist air about their decoration.

The dog and a a carpet were the only luxuries. A couple of old desks were piled with creams, ointments, "Sex-Maniacs" diaries and many wobbly handwritten notices which pointed the customer towards items which might otherwise be passed over. "Super Satisfaction" they said, or "For that extra get up and go." "Full length hair!" announced the notice for inflatable ladies, "Normally £345, Here £310."

Mr Fish sat in front of another sign: "Take note! All thieves will be nicked!"

"Cup of tea?" said Mr Fish, sounding uncertain as to how he would provide one. He rifled through a desk, flinging open drawers crammed full of coloured condoms, assorted stimulating creams and the occasional half-empty bag of granulated sugar. The door opened and a young man poked his head in.

"Sorry mate," said Mr Fish, "Lady's hour, come back in an hour."

The man eyed my notebook and diary as if suspecting Mr Fish and me of concealing from him some extraordinary new sex aid and retreated slowly. The alsatian resumed its snuffling at my feet and icy fingers.

"I've got a poster somewhere saying Women Only", said Mr Fish, giving up on the tea. "I must get it out."

Even before they introduced this scheme three months ago, Conegate claims that women accounted for 25 per cent of their turnover. "There has been a change in attitude", Mr Fish explained, fingering a collection of silver chains around his neck. "Generally, sex shops have become acceptable. I mean ones of this sort, the less sleazy ones. If more



by Catherine Bennett

Who was yesterday named the winner of the Catherine Pakenham award for young women journalists. We asked her to write on a subject of her choice.

people in *general* realize they are not sleazy, then more women will realize."

I stared at the dingy carpet, the sticky-looking plastic wraps, the makeshift shelves. At the bottom of the shop a curtained-off area was set aside for "trying" videos. If you decided to buy one for £25 you got your £2 back.

I began to understand Mr Fish's "if you disapprove of this you are a prude" tactic and blushed.

Mr Fish crusades for the reputation of the sex-shop. "In popular opinion we just sell dirty books etc, but we also have a great range of marital aids, sex toys and lingerie."

Despite the temptations of his range, and the greater confidence shown by women for sex shops when they appear next to the local supermarket, Fish thinks Women's Hour is important. "Women do not like to come in for fear of being ogled by men who, rightly or wrongly, think that if a woman goes into a sex shop she is a raver and fair game

"It is not the case, of course, but if a couple of young men are in the shop, and a young girl comes in and buys a vibrator they are going to go 'Worrrrgh yeah, she's a good un'." Mr Fish did a convincing imitation of their misguided lust.

Another man popped his head round the door. I smiled at him brazenly. "Sorry mate", said Mr Fish.

Lady was getting frisky again. "Over here you!" said Mr Fish absentmindedly, groping in his pocket for a scrap of paper. Uncreased, it turned out to be the Fish equivalent of the Kinsey Report. According to his figures, sex offences have fallen over exactly the same period that Conegate have taken to become the leading sex-shop chain

Amazing! Before we could discuss the full significance of these findings, we were interrupted by an attractive woman of about 35, wearing jeans and expensive shoes. She greeted Mr Fish like an old friend and made for the vibrators. Dropping the Fish Report, he was by her side in a trice. Even Lady, clearly realizing that money was at stake, made herself scarce.

Mr Fish and the woman hovered over the vibrators. I stayed in the background. The woman asked to see an expensive model. She giggled, but thought that £25 was a bit pricey. Mr Fish pondered, and reduced the price to £20, adding a few persuasive recommendations of his own. "It does things an ordinary vibrator won't do." More giggles.

Then she was rummaging through the lingerie department: a large cardboard box full of assorted fancies in coloured net, some cunningly exposing all the areas which the usual product is designed to conceal.

The lady was dithering, so Mr Fish threw in a final inducement: a nipple-adorner-and-panties-set in daring red and black, and the whole lot for £32.95.

Vibrators are Mr Fish's own best seller for women. "This is your standard plastic vibrator; feel it", he said, unwrapping one for me. It wasn't very tempting.

"Everyone thinks it is the gay, liberated young things buying this stuff, but no-one takes account of the frustrated widows and spinsters", said Mr Fish, movingly recalling an incident in Chatham where a district nurse had come in and bought two vibrators for paraplegic patients. "And you know", he beamed, "I got the impression they were *being paid for by the health services*."

And it's not just sad women, but sad couples too, who can benefit from Conegate's sexual provisions. "There are a great number of people in their 40s and 50s who have been married for 20 years or so who want to spice up their sex lives with things they were not aware of in their younger days."

Poignant as all this was, it was time for an attack. Don't you, I demanded feebly, get some female complaints about the brutal material? "Oh, of course we get some criticism from women who come in deliberately to argue", said Mr Fish, scornfully, "but when girls earn the money that they do", pointing at the magazines, "if they want to do it it's up to them.

"We get lots of women coming in here and asking about modelling", came the next justification. Does he put them in touch with photographers? "Yes", said Mr Fish, "if I think they are worth it."

Mr Fish had all this, and 25 per cent of his colleagues who are female managers of Conegate sex shops on his side. I had a few financially uncompelling arguments, which were beginning to sound prudish. Anyway, Women's Hour was nearing its end. I made my excuses and left.

Now Dr Budd faces a student rebellion

Dr Alan Budd, director of the Centre of Economic Forecasting at the London Business School, seems to be rocking the apple cart of late. Having incurred the wrath of monetarist devotees by declaring this week that the Government had made a "serious mistake" by allowing the exchange rate of the pound to rise so dramatically last year, thereby admitting that an essential part of his and Professor Terry Burn's advice to Maggie was wrong, he has now managed to enrage many of his students at the London Business School.

First-year students at LBS, worried about their examination in macro-economics next week, have circulated a petition stating that none of the material in Dr Budd's lectures will be of any use to them at all in the examinations. Altogether 87 per cent of his students have signed it. It is claimed that his lectures are diatribes about the national account, solely composed of Treasury figures which students are expected to memorize parrot-fashion, rather than an analysis of macro-economic theory.

At his lecture on Wedesday Dr Budd announced that he never listens to petitions and he does not like teaching macro-economics "because it bores me; the national account is far more interesting". A 20-minute argument followed with his class, which was hotly continued the next day by equally disaffected second-year students.

THE TIMES DIARY

Congratulations to Claire Ryle, 29-year-old daughter of Sir Martin, our Astronomer Royal. She has pulled off something of a coup by ensuring that at least two presidents of royal medical colleges will attend a meeting of International Physicians for the Prevention on Nuclear War (IPPNW) at Newnham College, Cambridge, next April. Sir Douglas Black, former Government chief scientist, and now President of the Royal College of Physicians, will chair some of the sessions at the conference to be held between April 3 and 7. Dr John Horder, President of the Royal College of Practitioners, will also take part.

And that is not all. International delegates will include Academician Eugene Tchazov, described as President Brezhnev's personal physician and head of the Soviet Academy of Cardiologists; and Professor Bernard Lown, a Nobel Prize winner who runs Harvard Medical School's cardiology department. Tchazov and Lown started IPPNW last year.

Miss Ryle, who is full-time organizer of the Cambridge-based Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons, told me yesterday: "This is an exciting new part of the disarmament movement. It is not allied to CND, so the medical profession, which is one of the most-conservative, can feel happy to speak out on what is really the biggest preventative health issue today."

Level-headed

Mr James Hele, High Master of St Paul's School and the next chairman of the Headmaster's Conference, is a very judicious man.

When we spoke yesterday after his election to this prestige office, which represents 215 of the country's top fee-paying public schools, he scrupulously avoided the dangers of an easy generalization or the ill-judged aside. (This sort of behaviour does not make my job any easier.)

A firm believer in evolutionary rather than revolutionary change, he is prone to talking about building on the good and the need for "continuous adaptation". There will, one suspects, be no dramatic changes of direction when Mr Hele takes over the HMC in January. He follows in the footsteps of John Thorn, headmaster of Winchester, and Ian Beer, headmaster of Harrow, and his prudence will be an asset in the increasingly important business of defending the role of the private sector in education.

For the future, the headmaster to 774 boys and father of four daughters says he will continue to support the idea of broadening the curriculum in the sixth form by promoting the introduction of I Levels between O and A Levels. Sounds revolutionary to a traditionalist like me.

Dear Denis

I sometimes think that Denis Thatcher, the Prime Minister's husband, must be in cahoots with John Wells — or own shares in *Private Eye*. What else could explain Mr T's behaviour yesterday, in flying to Bahrain by Gulf Air, when British Airways fly the route at the same time for the same price (£665.50, one-way)? No wonder British Airways staff at Heathrow were described as upset.

Absolutely no prizes for guessing the contents of John Wells's "Dear Bill" column in the next *Private Eye*.



Bad news

Gosh. Mr Victor Fox, marketing director of Kadix Fashions of London, has telexed me and no doubt scores of other London journalists with some information so riveting, so important, that it was embargoed until "01.00" this morning. Golly.

The news turns out to be that "Mrs Shirley Williams and four other famous women" are today to be "dubbed" the "frumpy five" by this "leading" London fashion house. In the firm's no-doubt faultless view, "the other four worst-dressed women in the public eye are Princess Anne, Diana Dors, Miss World Organizer Julia Morley, and *Coronation Street* star Julie Goodyear, who plays Bet Lynch". Crikey.

There is more. "The firm suggests that Shirley Williams could take a few tips from Mrs Thatcher, Mrs Morley could take a lesson in style from Anna Ford, Diana Dors from Zsa Zsa Gabor, Princess Anne from the Princess of Wales and Julie Goodyear from Fiona Richmond or Jane Fonda". By Jove.

What all this rubbish really is, of course, is yet another crummy public-relations idea. One of the hazards of my job is that between the gin and the lobster, between the Lynch Bages and the chateaubriand, comes PR, often in the form of handouts using words like "dubbed", "exclusive", "world's foremost" and "Rachael Heyhoe-Flint".

Over the past weeks, I have been collecting these with a view to giving my own awards for the five crummiest to pass my desk. I can now reveal, exclusively of course, that the following can be dubbed Britain's five foremost agencies when it comes to having crummy PR ideas:

- Kadix, for the aforementioned.
- Crown Paints Press Office, for their "survey", also published today, entitled "Secrets of the Smallest Room revealed". This shows that "a surprising" 43 per cent of adults never lock the door of the loo, that an exciting "one in seven" spends more than 30 minutes a day in their smallest room and that as many as 6 per cent sing at the same time. Hell's bells.
- Kingsway Public Relations, and Bowyers, for their "Sausage and Mash Cook of the Year" award. Words fail me.
- RAF Support Command PR, for their project: "Jan Leeming to visit RAF Leeming".
- Anthony Edwards PR and Mr Harry suit company of Reading, for "How his hands point to character". This document reports that "the measure of a man's true character is revealed in what he does with his hands when wearing a traditional lounge suit".

All this is "news" you are better off without. The five winning PR companies are each awarded an abusive letter from my solicitor begging them to stop sending me such stuff. Or at least to enclose a large cheque or two tickets to San Francisco.

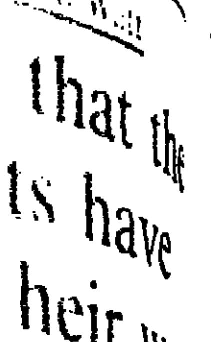
Cheap laughs

Richard Allen may have been cleared by the United States Justice Department after accepting payment from Japanese journalists, for arranging an interview with Nancy Regan, but jokes about him are now plaguing White House staff. David Gergen, "communications director" at the White House, was not pleased when he took the rostrum to conduct the daily briefing the other day to find dollar bills strewn around the microphone. Then a writer for the *Washington Guide*, which ran a White House photo of Nancy Reagan on its cover presented Larry Speakes, deputy press secretary, with the customary $4.50 fee for use of an official photograph. An extra $4.50 was also enclosed as "an honorarium". When Speakes indignantly rejected the cash, the journalist responded: "What's the matter? Isn't American money as good as Japanese?"

Closed shop

A new form of industrial action is, I hear, catching on in France. Since October at least a dozen top managers have found themselves locked in their offices. These are not those good-tempered and connived-at occasions such as those where parents have shut in popular teachers who have been ordered to change school. All the recent cases are in protest against sackings and factory closures.

Peter Watson





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone : 01-837 1234

BORN TO SUCCEED

The law governing the succession to the Throne is, as things go, exceptionally favourable to the claims of women's rights. A Queen occupies the throne today in her own right, and others have preceded her: a female has no prescriptive right to inherit a dukedom or earldom. Salic law, which denied the crown of Hanover to Queen Victoria, has never governed succession to the English throne. But the law does not, even so, treat sons and daughters on equal terms, and the prospect that the royal line may soon reach a *generation* further has raised the question whether the law should be changed. This week *Mr Michael English, M.P.* has presented a Private Member's Bill in the Commons which would amend the Act of Settlement 1701 to give the first child of the Prince and Princess of Wales an unconditional claim, whether a boy or girl (subject to the other conditions laid down in the Act, which have nothing to do with gender).

Our present Queen's claim was technically conditional until the moment of her accession. A son born either to her eldest uncle (until 1936) or to her own parents would always have superseded her claim. The child whose happy delivery we look forward to next June will take second place in the line in any event, but if she is a princess, a brother will always be able to step between her and the succession. It is impossible to guess whether this might be a matter of relief or disappointment to her, but it does not sit easily with current ideas about equal rights.

Nor does the idea of monarchy itself, it may be said. The institution's great modern propagandist, Bagehot, has conditioned us to treat it carefully, as if a puff of air might blow away the magic. The practical reasons for giving preference to a male that existed when a monarch had to be a soldier have long disappeared. The need for an undisputed lineal pattern often overrode them when the heir was a baby, and ensured the succession of queens regnant at a period when soldiering was still very much a part of the normal business of kingship. But precedent is almost everything in matters of succession: the existing law has served well for centuries: why not let sleeping dogs lie?

The law is founded on an assumption of unequal competence. That assumption is not borne out by history — rather the reverse, if the examples of Elizabeth, and Victoria are considered. It is impossible to say how influential it may be upon current attitudes to sexual equality. It would certainly be wise to leave it as a venerable anomaly if there was any danger of serious controversy being aroused by an attempt to change it. Public feelings on the issue at the moment are probably not very strong. But on the whole there is likely to be greater risk of controversy damaging the Crown if a princess is seen apparently being robbed of her rights than if a potential son and heir's hypothetical claim is set aside. In Sweden, where the law provided that a woman could not succeed in any circumstances, the birth of a daughter to the King and queen in 1977 was quickly followed by legislation providing that the eldest child should inherit regardless of sex. The change was popular, and remains so since the birth of the princess's younger brother.

It is not in dispute that Parliament has the right to tamper with the succession. Since Henry IV at least, kings have relied on statute to confirm a *de facto* claim. Parliament overruled strict heredity in the case of William III and of George I. The English monarchy was elective long before the Normans came. Considerable art in draughtsmanship may be required satisfactorily to amend the 1701 Act, which lays down its rules of succession as if it was merely confirming common law principles which did not in fact exist. It will not be the first time the Act has suffered amendment. But the matter has been complicated since 1931 by the Statute of Westminister, whose preamble states that the parliaments of all the dominions of the Commonwealth should give their consent to any law touching the succession. Parliament cannot bind itself, of course, and the preamble does not technically have the force of law. But it creates a very strong constitutional presumption, which must be respected. Parliament must not move unless all formal and informal precautions have been taken to ensure that the sovereign's role as Head of the Commonwealth is not impaired.

It seems unlikely that any strong objections would be raised by our fellow members of the Commonwealth. It is not as if a Queen is a novelty. If the overseas complications could be overcome, and if no serious opposition becomes apparent at home, then the case for making the change would be a strong one. And once it has been made, then the House of Peers may be disposed to ask themselves whether the English and Scottish enactments which deny their daughters rights of inheritance comparable to those of princesses are any longer defensible.

GOOD FOR NATO, GOOD FOR SPAIN

The Spanish application to join Nato, now formally submitted in Brussels and welcomed there, is an historic event both for Spain and for the alliance. For Spain, it marks the end of a period of isolation which dates back to the Civil War and the ostracism imposed on the Franco regime. Once Franco had died and a democratic system had been reestablished, the new rulers were anxious to return to the western community of nations, and they did this by making approaches to join first the European Community and then Nato. Negotiations with the Community have been held up by the Community's own internal problems, and the economic difficulties that are raised. But accession to Nato is a more straightforward affair, and should be completed in the course of next year, once the necessary ratifications are in.

For Nato, the entry of a country of Spain's size and place in the world is also important. At the military level, it means the addition of the Spanish armed forces. The navy and the air force are the best equipped, while the army, though large, needs modernizing. Its geographical situation gives Spain the ability to command much of the western Mediterranean and the eastern Atlantic by sea and by air, while the Canary Islands lie on one of the West's main shipping lanes. To a certain extent Spain has been tied in with the Western system of defence for some years through its treaty with the United States and the bases made available to the Americans under it. But membership of Nato will enable its defence efforts to be coordinated much more closely with the rest of the alliance.

More significant, however, is the fact that Spain has decided to throw in its lot with the countries of the democratic West. There are sectors of Spanish opinion which would like it to be neutralist. There are those who believe that it should give priority to its historical links with Latin America, or to the Arab world. But for the time being, at least, it has chosen to join the mainstream of western Europe; and that is important at a time when neutralism and pacifism are running strongly, and when there are doubts about the strength of the allegiance that Greece, another Mediterranean country, feels towards Nato.

There are bound to be objections from the Soviet Union. The Russians have consistently made it clear that they are opposed to Spain's joining Nato. One of their long-standing proposals has been that Nato and the Warsaw Pact should agree not to enlarge themselves; and they can be expected to make a propaganda issue out of this, emphasizing the contrast between Soviet proposals to disband all alliances and Nato's addition of a new member. But, given the fact that the Americans already have bases in Spain, they can hardly claim that the military balance has been seriously tilted.

More worrying is the uncertainty over Spain's internal situation. Spanish entry into Nato has been strongly opposed not only by the Communists, but also by the Socialists, who are the largest opposition party and could well win the next election. There is a strong groundswell of opposition in public opinion, reflected in some large demonstrations which have been held in recent weeks — and in the government's refusal to put the issue to a referendum for fear of losing. Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Socialist leader, has talked of taking Spain out of Nato again if he came to power, either by a parliamentary vote or else by putting it to a referendum. But he has been under pressure to soften his stand, not least from fellow Socialists in France, and it is not at all certain that he would insist on pulling Spain out when it came to the point.

There is, of course, a strong internal argument for Spain joining Nato, which is that it might help, however marginally, to prevent a military coup d'état. Nato membership has not prevented coups in Greece and Turkey in the past. But involvement in the alliance's planning would give Spanish officers something else to occupy their minds. And contact with officers from other Nato countries, by revealing a very different attitude to relations between the armed forces and the state, should do something to break down the extraordinarily closed mentality of many Spanish military men.

For Britain, there could be a particular advantage to be had from Spain's entry to Nato if it was used to resolve the impasse over Gibraltar. Britain and Spain reached an agreement in Lisbon last year by which Spain would lift the blockade of Gibraltar while simultaneously talks would begin on the territory's future; but the Spanish have not so far implemented the agreement because of pressure from the right.

The Spanish government has, however, been expressing the view that it would be easier to resolve the Gibraltar dispute once Spain was inside Nato — for example by having Spanish commanders working in Nato base in Gibraltar. And it is significant that the submission of Spain's application in Brussels has coincided with the announcement of a visit to London next month by Sẽnor Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, and suggestions in Madrid that the blockade may be lifted soon. If Spanish entry to Nato enabled progress to be made on Gibraltar, that would not be the least of the gains.

Chances for all

From Mr Michael Pacey

Sir, Lord Scarman's repudiation of the charge of institutional racism in Britain has led to bitter responses from the black population and its spokespeople, but I wonder whether the disagreement lies to some extent in the choice of word.

Whilst I am not in a position to disagree with Lord Scarman's contention that government and local authorities are making real efforts to promote racial integration, I suspect that much of the black resentment may be broadly directed at the white middle-class core of society in whose hands lie the professional and managerial opportunities which seem to be denied to the black aspirant at present. The police are inevitably seen, of couse, as the protectors of this comfortable and selfish state of affairs.

It is shameful to have to say it, but it is undeniable that the black man is generally looked upon with a fundamental disdain in this country as a result of traditional and deep-seated attitudes. Articulate and intelligent black people are slowly dispelling this view, but can it really be said that our firms of accountants, architects, management consultants and lawyers feel fully at ease in sending a black man to represent them at meetings in their clients' boardrooms even when such qualified blacks are on their staff?

Lord Scarman has recommended particular emphasis on black education and employment, but it will have little long-term benefit unless the professions make an equal effort. Surely this is the moment when we should look for illuminating and unequivocal leadership at the highest levels in business and the professions.

Once familiarity removes the baseless fears we can look forward to receiving the undoubted gifts which this section of the population is anxious to contribute.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PACEY,
44 Thorkhill Road,
Thames Ditton,
Surrey.

Plight of museums

From Mrs M. W. Plowman

Sir, To help our museums in their present financial straits, why isn't an entrance charge made in June, July and August? The young, the elderly and the handicapped could be exempted.

This way most tourists would contribute to the upkeep of the splendours they had come to see, while our own citizens could often arrange to visit the museums, freely, at some other time of the year.

Yours faithfully,
M. W. PLOWMAN,
52 Felstead Road,
Orpington,
Kent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tightening screw on student grants

From the Master of St Catharine's College, Cambridge

Sir, The last full assessment of the maintenance grant for university students was in the mid-seventies. The figure it produced was what was needed for subsistence, together with an allowance for the special needs of students, such as books. Since then, the grant has been annually increased by a percentage based on (though usually less than) the Treasury's estimate of inflation; and that estimate in its turn has been usually less than the reality.

The announcement of the undergraduate maintenance grant for 1982-83 must destroy any pretence that the grant is any longer intended to cover subsistence fully. One is bound to ask whether there are any longer any principles on which the value of the grant is based; if so it is surely time that the Secretary of State announced what those principles now are and set up a new assessment of the grant based on them.

The fact that the latest increase in undergraduate grant is by the percentage to which the Government hope to keep the increases in public sector pay suggests a fundamental confusion. Public sector pay is determined by free collective bargaining between the employers and the trade unions, or by the operation of impartial machinery agreed by both sides. Student grants are determined by Government decree. A better analogy is with unemployment benefit, which also is intended to cover bare subsistence.

That the Government appears to be even less sympathetic to students than to the unemployed is shown by the fact that, in each year since the last general election, student grants have gone up by a smaller percentage than unemployment benefit. But of course unemployment may represent sheer bad luck, whereas to be a student is a deliberate decision.

It may be that the latest cut in the real value of the grant simply reflects the need to cut total expenditure on student maintenance, because of the exigencies of Government finance. If so, I think it would have been less damaging to make a further cut in the number of home undergraduates instead. In happier days, undergraduates could supplement their grant by part-time work in the vacations; but in most parts of Britain such jobs are no longer available. Academic work is demanding, and those who are perpetually hungry cannot properly concentrate on it.

Some undergraduates will be able to persuade their parents to fund them beyond the official level of parental contribution; others will be able to obtain overdrafts if they have good enough prospects of a job when they graduate. The rest will have to choose between being ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed or bookless — and many will suffer more than one of these.

Yours sincerely,
PETER SWINNERTON-DYER,
St Catharine's College,
Cambridge.
December 3.

The Guided One

From Mr Robert Hardy

Sir, Honoured as I felt to have been the subject of a piece in The Times Diary on November 24, and much as I enjoyed the company of your Diarist, I am sad that in reporting my involvement with a television documentary about General Gordon in the Sudan, the writer spoke of my "tackling the Mad Mahdi".

No one who has studied the history of the revolution led by Mohammad Ahmed Ibn Abdullah, the Mahdi, or who has had anything at all to do with subsequent evolutions in the Sudan would like the choice of that adjective.

The Mahdi is properly regarded as an extremely important figure both in the religious and the political history of the Sudan, and that is how we are regarding him in the documentary programme.

I expect it was a slip of the pen, but it was a slip that might well give a wrong impression to those in the Sudan, and those who represent the Sudan in this country, who are at present kindly disposed towards our enterprise.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HARDY,
Upper Bolney House,
Upper Bolney,
Henley on Thames,
Oxfordshire.
November 26.

Hampstead Heath

From Mr Anthony Norden

Sir, I was interested to read your letter (November 28) about Hampstead Heath from Mr Patrick Cormack, MP, *et al.* They complain about a development adjacent to the heath which "might cause a loss of many mature trees".

Closer to home, but still near the heath, in Alexandra Park, many local residents have fought assiduously against the plans of the local Haringey council to "cause the conversion of many acres of grass to tarmac for car parks" (my quotes). This is part of a £34m scheme to develop Alexandra Park and Palace into an exhibition and leisure centre. These plans are, at least, the subject of a forthcoming inquiry by the Department of the Environment.

I would suggest that Alexandra Park, though far less well known than Hampstead Heath, is correspondingly in far greater need of protectors.

Yours sincerely,
A. NORDEN,
61 Linzee Road,
N8.
November 28.

Exchange rates and inflation

From Professor Alan P. Budd

Sir, I should welcome an opportunity to expand the off-the-cuff remarks reported by Melvyn Westlake in his story of December 2.

My comments to the Society of Business Economists were related to the special conditions of 1979 and 1980 and to possible economic developments over the short term. I have not in any way revised my support for the broad terms of the Government's economic strategy nor have I changed my view that the exchange rate plays a major role in controlling inflation in the medium term.

My comments were concerned with tactics, not with strategy. With the wisdom of hindsight I believe that it was a mistake for the Government to have allowed the exchange rate to rise so rapidly during 1979 and 1980, since the impact fell disproportionately on output rather than on prices.

Further, I believe that this mistake arose from a failure to recognise the extent to which sterling M3 (the Government's chosen monetary target) was a misleading short-term indicator of monetary conditions.

In my comments on Tuesday I admitted that I had changed my mind about the past conduct of policy, but I certainly was not "repudiating one of the central planks" of international monetarism. I was drawing attention to problems of short-term economic policy, of which I have no doubt that the Government is completely aware.

Yours faithfully,
A. P. BUDD,
Professor of Economics,
London Business School,
Sussex Place,
Regent's Park, NW1.
December 2.

From Mr John Pitts

Sir, You report today (December 2) Dr Alan Budd's revised views on the impact of world prices on United Kingdom prices. Your report says that the evidence suggests that international competition has much less effect on the prices of our goods than exponents of international monetarism have accepted until now. This may be a misleading conclusion.

In the case of products manufactured by this company,the average realisation that we obtained from our United Kingdom sales in October this year was the same as that obtained in January, 1980. The principal factor forcing us to hold our prices at the same level for 21 months was the pressure of international competition resulting from the very high value of the pound during the period.

During the same period in the United Kingdom, hydrocarbon energy rose in price by about 50% and electricity by about 30%. The energy of course is derived from indigenous commodities whose costs are incurred in pounds sterling and whose domestic prices are largely determined by state bodies with monopoly powers. At the same time, rates of earnings rose by about 30%.

This company, like much of manufacturing industry, has made a big contribution to reducing inflation by holding down prices. It has, however, been caught in a squeeze between selling prices held down by international competition and domestic input prices forced up by Government and trade union pressure. Since inflation has not come down very much, it must mean that the latter inflationary pressure has largely triumphed over the deflationary pressures of the high pound.

The burden of the effort to reduce inflation has been borne so far by those employees of manufacturing industry who have lost jobs and those shareholders who have lost dividends. There is also a long-term burden to be borne by the United Kingdom economy as a whole as a result of the loss of finance for future capital investment in the manufacturing sector.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PITTS,
Chairman,
Tioxide Group Limited,
10 Stratton Street, W1,
December, 2.

Youth jobless schemes

From Mr Tom Pendry, MP for Stalybridge and Hyde (Labour)

Sir, In a short article in *The Times* (November 20) today you refer to the slow take-up of work placements on the youth opportunities programme in the York area. YOP is being considerably expanded by the Government, with the Prime Minister herself having given a pledge that every unemployed school leaver will be offered a place on the programme by the end of the year. The allegation therefore that young people are not taking up this offer has implications of "work shy", and in my opinion deserves further examination.

YOP was set up under the previous Government to facilitate the transfer of young people from the dole queues into jobs. One of its basic principles was that many young people were ill-equipped to seek jobs which would otherwise have been available to them.

At that time over 70 per cent of YOP trainees were successful in finding employment. Today the figure is less than 30 per cent. The programme is due to grow by 25 per cent in the next year alone, and serious reservations are being expressed not only about its inability to fulfil its original aims, but also about its unconstrained growth.

The need for closer supervision has been highlighted both by the trade unions and in recent debates in the House of Commons. There is increasing evidence that YOP trainees are being used as substitutes for permanent employees.

My own concern about lack of supervision on the scheme relates to safety standards, and in a series of recent parliamentary questions I established that out of 3,000 accidents in the year ending June, 1981, there were five fatalities and 23 amputations. At a time when YOP is due for such a substantial increase, the body responsible for safety on the programme, the Health and Safety Executive, is actually contracting, with its number of inspectors being reduced to a pre-1978 level.

Disillusionment with the scheme is reflected in the remarks of many young people I have met who have taken up YOP placements. By and large they see it as a barely acceptable alternative to the dole queues. The most frequent complaint is about the low wage which, at £23.50 a week, in many cases works out at less than 50p an hour, and is in any case just marginally above dole money.

Dissatisfaction extends also to the type of work undertaken by the trainees, with many of them finding it boring and routine, without either supervision or any element of training. Concern at the lack of training is reflected by the inability of the Manpower Services Commission to effectively monitor the programme, to ascertain the nature of the work involved on many of the placements.

At a time when one in three of our young people are unemployed, it is essential that this major initiative of the Government is radically revamped, otherwise we will have little grounds upon which to justifiably accuse our young people of being "work-shy".

Yours faithfully,
TOM PENDRY,
House of Commons.
November 20.

Conserving woodlands

From Mr George Marten

Sir, All who care for the appearance and conservation of the countryside should be grateful to you for the space which you have devoted to the problem of our traditional woodlands.

No letter can do justice to a problem of such complexity, and it is unfortunate that opinions expressed by this means tend to polarize views between those who approach the question academically and those who are faced with paying the bills, the wages, and the taxes which attach to these woods. The area involved is about 750,000 acres of generally high-quality land which we can ill afford to manage, either nationally or individually, in a manner which neglects its potential productivity.

It is clear that conditions do not at present exist in which sound economic management can fully accommodate the demands of conservation. The reasons are partly historical and partly the product of current policies. Free trade, agricultural depression, changing demand, the necessary depredations of two world wars, and urgent concern for our future timber stocks have all played a part in changing the woodland scene, but perhaps the most important factor is the debilitating effect of capital taxation on owners, and through them, on woodlands themselves."

Broadleaved trees, whether planted or grown by natural regeneration from now on, will mature in the twenty-second century, and unless owners have the resources and the confidence to embark upon a century-long programme of management and care the hopes many of them share with members of the public will remain unfulfilled.

Neither public ownership, nor controls, nor grants, nor sheer neglect, all of which we have in some measure, are proving effective substitutes for resourceful and confident ownership. It should not be impossible to create a framework in which these qualities can be re-established.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE MARTEN,
Crichel,
Wimborne,
Dorset.
November 25.

Space for thought

From Mr R. V. Bonavita

Sir, The recent expulsion of a German television team from Malta is typical of the inept arrogance of Dominic Mintoff's administration. The team had come out to produce a programme on the issues at stake in the coming general elections and it was kicked out after interviewing critics of Mr Mintoff's treatment of the dockyard workers, the medical profession and (in my case) the University.

Of course the expulsion has done more damage to Mr Mintoff's image than anything I or other critics might otherwise have succeeded in achieving. It was a very silly thing to do.

My interview was short. The camera passed through 360 deg around our magnificent campus and came to rest on me. "Will you comment on the effects of the changes made by Mr Mintoff in the University?", asked the German interviewer. "No", I replied, "the first few metres of this film will suffice."

The campus was empty.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER VELLA BONAVITA,
Faculty of Education,
The University of Malta.
November 30.

What SDP success means for Labour

From Dr Colin Howson

Sir, Mr Hattersley's remark (*The Times*, November 27) that the SDP's victories are born out of frustation with the state of the Labour Party in almost certainly correct. His conclusion, which appears to be that if only the "moderates" like himself can regain the ground lost to the lunatic left within his party then the electorate will gratefully restore himself and his friends to office, is not.

There is a deeper reason than even insurgent Bennery for the contemporary marked preference for the SDP over the Labour Party which is being exhibited by the Bitish electorate. That is that the SDP, unlike the Labour Party, even a Labour Party reconstituted according to the taste of Mr Hattersley, is not the political representative of a purely sectional interest.

I refer, of course, to the enormous influence wielded over Labour Party policy by the trade unions. It is no objection that the unions represent only one voice in the formation of policy; Mr Varley's recent promise to Parliament that legislation to end or modify some of the legal immunities presently enjoyed by the unions will be revoked by an incoming Labour Government shows just how effective this influence is. Indeed, the quiet automatic, puppet nature of this response to a not obviously unfair proposal reminds one very strongly of certain Eastern European leaders' reactions to anything their fraternal friends to the East might be thought to object to.

It is exactly this bland refusal to acknowledge what undoubtedly worries very many people, trade unionists included, in this country that was responsible for the defeat of Labour in 1979 and will debar it from government in the future. When Mr Hattersley realises this he will be closer to understanding what sort of reconstitution the party requires. But of course by that time it will be too late to do him much good.

That reconstituted Labour Party already exists, though it has changed its name. And Mr Hattersley isn't in it.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN HOWSON,
The London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.
November 26.

From the Reverend D. M. Clarridge

Sir, Tactical voting at by-elections is at least more honourable than tactical analysis of the results!

After Crosby the SDP and Liberal alliance are the greatest threat to the Conservatives at the next election. Is that why the Chairman of the Conservative Party says he sees them "letting Labour into office"?

Yours ironically,
D. M. CLARRIDGE,
The Vicarage,
Bampton,
Devon.
November 28.

Sponsors for engineers

From Mr Douglas Doughty

Sir, Your leader, "Wanted — a plan for skilled people" (December 2), is timely. I teach electrical engineering at a technological university. My job includes finding industrial companies willing to train our students as part of a thin sandwich course: this involves alternate periods of six months spent in industry and university, over a four-and-a-half year period.

Our students, and industry, say they like a system which provides practical "on the job" experience in parallel with college work. The professional institutions also approve. But we have insisted that students find for themselves. with our assistance of course, their own placements at competitive interview for industrial sponsorship.

But this year our numbers are down 30 per cent — mechanical and civils worse. Good students despair when they make many applications for sponsorship with leading companies without success. The bad news filters back to schools and leads to a further decline.

This happened once before in 1970 and was followed by a more general drop in engineering applications to university. Our sandwich system, built up over 25 years in cooperation with industry, is in severe danger of collapse.

No one would allow a doctor to practice without having walked the hospital wards during training. Why then expect a different standard for engineers for manufacturing industry?

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS DOUGHTY,
11 King George Avenue,
Bushey,
Watford,
Hertfordshire.
December 3.

Far from clear

From Mrs Alice Boase

Sir, I know that your correspondence page is an unlikely venue for household hints, but in our household we have made a small but interesting discovery, for which we hope one of your readers will be able to provide a scientific explanation.

Why is it that if ice cubes are stored in fridge or freezer in a *clear* plastic bag they coalesce and are completely useless, but if an *opaque* bag is used the cubes remain separate and ready for instant use?

Yours sincerely,
ALICE BOASE,
Linden Cottage,
Linden Chase,
Uckfield,
Sussex.
November 30.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

December 3: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were present this evening at a reception at Guildhall given by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (President, the Earl Jellicoe; Chairman, Mr R. T. S. Macpherson).

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received upon arrival by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor (Sir Christopher Leaver).

Lady Susan Hussey, the Right Hon. Sir Philip Moore and Squadron Leader Adam Wise were in attendance.

His Royal Highness, a Trustee of the National Maritime Museum, this morning attended a Trustee's Meeting at the Museum, Greenwich, SE10.

Afterwards the Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, visited the Army Scaling Authority, the REME Publications Centre and the REME Data Centre at Woolwich.

Captain Jeremy Willis was in attendance.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a dinner given by the Royal Navy Club (Chairman, Admiral Sir David Williams) at the Porter Tun Room, Whitbreads, Chiswell Street, EC1, to commemorate the Battle of Cape Matapan.

Captain Christopher Menhenneott, RM, was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, this afternoon at Highgrove House received members of The Men of the Trees.

Mr Oliver Everett was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

December 3: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this morning visited the Job Centre at Old Swan, Liverpool, and the Liverpool Head Post Office.

Her Royal Highness was later entertained at Luncheon by the Chairman of J. Bibby and Sons Limited at Richmond House, and visited the Factory of J. Bibby Edible Oils Limited, Great Howard Street, Liverpool.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, as Chancellor, this evening attended the Students' Union Christmas Ball at the University of Keele.

Mrs Alastair Aird was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

December 3: The Duchess of Gloucester, as President of London Home Safety Council, was present at a luncheon held by the Council at the House of Lords.

Mrs Michael Wigley was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

December 3: The Duke of Kent, a Liveryman of The Salters' Company, today presented the Chemistry Prizes and was entertained at luncheon by the Master and the Court at Salters' Hall.

Lieutenant-Commander Richard Buckley, RN, was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron, today visited the Yehudi Menuhin School at Stoke D'Abernon and this evening, Her Royal Highness, as Colonel-in-Chief, attended the Army Catering Corps' 40th Anniversary Cocktail Party at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Mrs Alan Henderson was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

December 3: Princess Alexandra this afternoon visited the Park Lane Fair, held in aid of the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops, at the Park Lane Hotel, London.

Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance.

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief of the 17th/21st Lancers, later received Colonel M. C. Watson, Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. Swinburn upon relinquishing the appointment as Commanding Officer and Lieutenant-Colonel B. G. Hamilton-Russell upon assuming command of the 17th/21st Lancers.

The Queen of Denmark, an old girl of the school, yesterday opened the new music wing at North Foreland Lodge.

Owing to the indisposition of a member of his family, Mr George Carman, QC, regrets he is unable to take up his appointment as a High Court Judge in Hongkong on January 1, 1982.

Birthdays today

Dr A. L. Rowse, the historian who is 78

The Marchioness of Anglesey, 57; Mr Ronnie Corbett, 51; Sir Patrick Donner, 77; Miss Gemma Jones, 39; Mrs Pamela W. Matthews, 67; Miss Yvonne Minton, 43; Mr J. C. Trewin, 73; the Rev Professor C. J. M. Weir, 84

Superb table makes £330,000

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A table was sold at Christie's yesterday for £330,000, the highest auction price ever paid for one. It was among a group of furniture sent for sale by Lord Lansdowne and came into his family through the marriage of the fourth Marquess with Emily, the daughter of the Comte de Flahaut, a natural son of Talleyrand. Flahaut had a colourful career, including being aide-de-camp to Napoleon.

Flahaut and his wife collected superb furnishings for their Paris home. This table, or bureau-plat, was made by J. F. Leleu, and is a superb pioneering example of the neo-classical style, with rich ormolu mounts. It is stylistically similar to the furniture provided by Leleu in 1772 for the Prince de Condé at the Palais Bourbon; it was clearly made for a great patron of the period but his identity is not known.

The piece was bid for by one of Christie's staff on behalf of an American private collector (unpublished estimate £200,000 plus).

Sotheby's, meanwhile, were having an uphill struggle with their sale of contemporary art, of which 4 per cent was left unsold. They claimed an auction record price for a Hockney drawing, however, when his portrait in coloured crayons of Bianca Jagger, dated 1972, made £14,740 (estimate £3,800-£4,500).

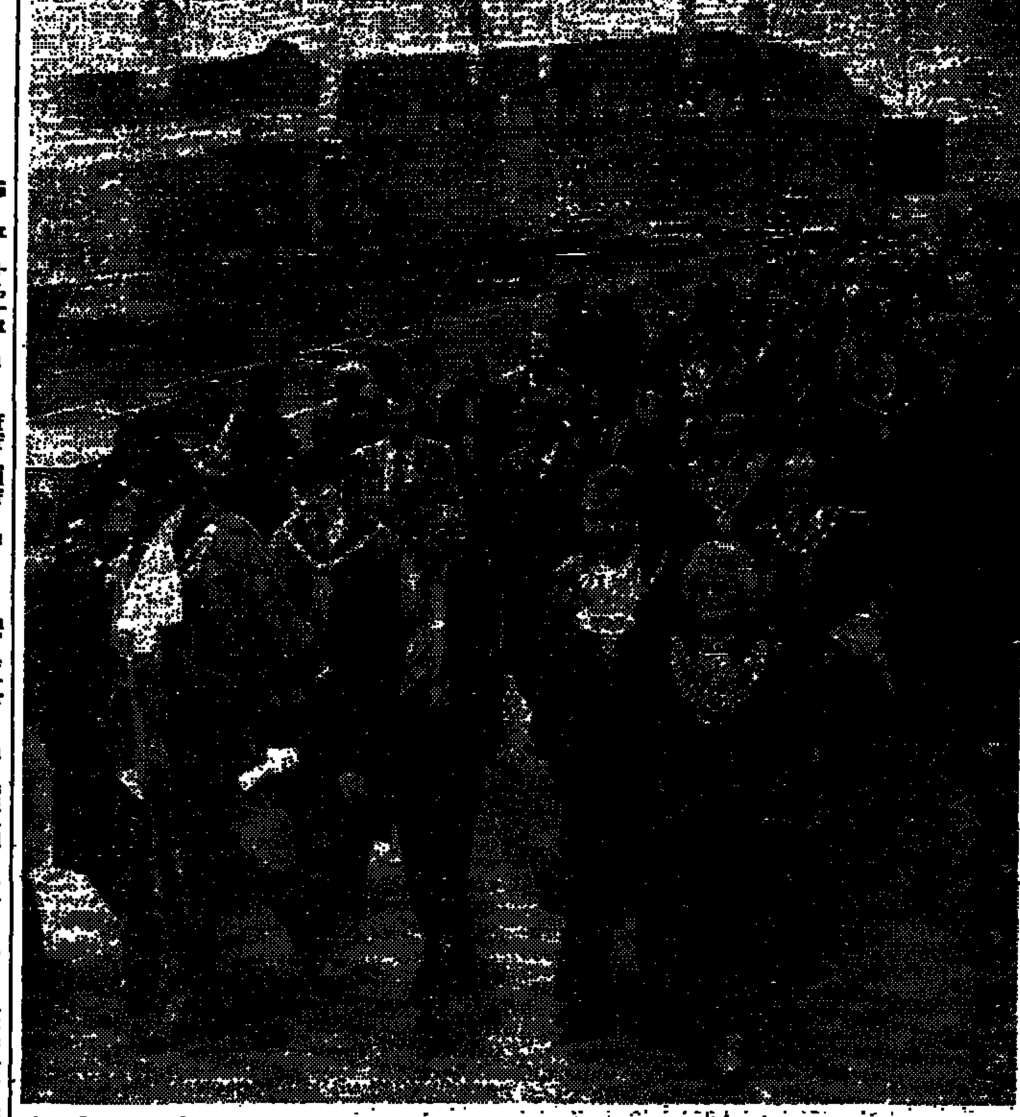
In yesterday's sale report we stated that the collection of German Expressionist paintings sold by Sotheby's on Wednesday was formed by Gustav Ferd. Jung, a German businessman. The collection of German porcelain sold by Sotheby's in Zurich was erroneously described as coming from the same source.

Latest Wills

The Marquess of Cambridge, of Little Abington, Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £165,131 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Byner, Mrs Irene Winifred, of Eastbourne.......£278,053
Chait, Pearl, of Hove, intestate £205,216
Sabel, Miss Molly Edith, of Exeter, Devon.......£363,371
Shaw, Mr Arthur, of Hale Barns, Cheshire.......£211,425



On the march: Mayors, council chairmen and councillors crossing Westminster Bridge yesterday on their way to Parliament, where they continued their "keep local government local" campaign by lobbying MPs about the effects of the Local Government Finance Bill.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D. H. Bainbridge and Miss E. L. Buchanan
The engagement is announced between Derek, son of Mr and Mrs E. Bainbridge, of Ruislip, Middlesex, and Emma, only daughter of the late Iain Buchanan and of Mrs M. M. Hudson, Yokehurst Farm, South Chailey, Lewes, Sussex.

Mr S. G. Burrows and Miss M. Leung
The engagement is announced between Simon Gordon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs G. S. Burrows, of Boulters Lock, Maidenhead, and Maria, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs T. K. Leung, of Hongkong.

Mr P. A. H. O'Donovan and Miss M. F. Gill
The engagement is announced between Patrick Anthony Hopkins, only son of Mr and Mrs P. O'Donovan, of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, and Marion Frances, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R. J. Gill, of Swanage, Dorset.

Mr B. Jenkins and Miss F. Orde
The engagement is announced between Brian, eldest son of the late John R. Jenkins and of Dulcibel McKenzie, of London, and Frances, second daughter of Mr T. H. E. Orde, of Hindhead, and of Mrs Stella Orde, of Haslemere.

Mr A. G. Millman and Miss R. P. Gant
The engagement is announced between Andrew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Keith Millman, of Kingsbridge, Devon, and Rosemary, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Douglas Gant of Cookham, Berkshire.

Mr C. J. M. Miskin and Miss K. E. Booth
The engagement is announced between Charles James Monckton, son of Mr Nigel Miskin, of 37 Melton Court SW7, and of the late Mrs H. Meryl Miskin, and Karen Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Booth, of Whorlton, Co. Durham.

Mr J. M. Ralph and Miss A. C. Driscoll
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs K. C. Ralph, of Canewdon, and Ann, daughter of Mr and Mrs M. G. Driscoll, of Thorpe Bay.

Mr J. A. Stewart-Moore and Miss J. G. Fifield
The engagement is announced between Anthony, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Hume Stewart-Moore, of Seaport Lodge, Portballintrae, co Antrim, and Guion, youngest daughter of the late Mr Stiles Rich Fifield and of Mrs Helen Fifield Pope, and step-daughter of Mr A. Harrell Pope, of Greensboro, North Carolina.

Mr D. J. Ross and Miss M. S. Owen
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs W. H. Ross, of Oxshott, Surrey, and Moya, daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Owen, of Rushmere, Suffolk.

Marriages

Mr W. H. H. Shawcross and Ms M. G. Levin
The marriage has taken place in Sussex between Mr William Shawcross, son of Lord Shawcross and the late Lady Shawcross, of Friston, Sussex, and Ms Michal Levin, daughter of the late Mr A. J. Levin and of Mrs Leah Levin, of London.

Commander R. Brooke and Miss A. Hare
The marriage took place yesterday at Holy Trinity, Brompton, between Commander Robin Brooke, RN, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Brooke, of North Cadbury, Somerset, and Miss Alix Hare, elder daughter of Mr Robert Hare, of Coolham, Sussex, and Mrs Martha Hare, of New York City. The Rev Sandy Millar officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Alix and Willing Davidson, Tracy and Richard Hare, Emma Lathem, James Brooke and Henry Norton. Mr Victor Brooke was best man. A guard of honour was formed by brother officers of the bridegroom.

A reception was held at the Naval and Military Club.

Reception

Corporation of London
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attended a reception in Guildhall yesterday evening given by the Corporation of London and London Chamber of Commerce and Industry to mark the centenary of the chamber. Among those present were:
The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, the Sheriffs and their escorts, the President of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Countess Jellicoe, the chairman, and Mrs R.T.S. McPherson, the deputy chairman and Mrs G.C. Nichols, the treasurer and Mrs W.K. Gardener, the director and Mrs W.F. Nicholas and other honorary officers and their ladies; the High Commissioner for New Zealand and Mrs Gander, the High Commissioner for Canada, the Ambassador of Egypt and Mrs Abor-Seeda, the High Commissioner for India and Shrimati Seyid Muhammad, the High Commissioner for Australia and Mrs Garland, the High Commissioner for Nigeria and Mrs Awak, the Secretary of State for Trade and President of the Board of Trade, representatives of parliament, the civil service, banking and commercial and professional institutions, aldermen, common councilmen and officers of the Corporation of London and their ladies.

Luncheons

HM Government
Mr Humphrey Atkins, Lord Privy Seal, was host yesterday at a luncheon given at 1 Carlton Gardens in honour of Judge William P. Clark, Deputy Secretary of State, United States.

Anglo-Netherlands Society
The council and executive committe of the Anglo-Netherlands Society gave a luncheon yesterday to mark the retirement of Mr Robbert Fack, The Netherlands Ambassador, as Vice-president of the society.

Inter-Parliamentary Union
Mr John Page, MP, chairman of the British group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, was host at a luncheon held in the restaurant ship Hispaniola yesterday in honour of a parliamentary delegation from Romania, led by Mr Stan Soare, chairman of the Romanian Group of the IPU.

Butchers Company
The Master of the Butchers' Company, Mr R. H. A. Connell, presided at a court luncheon held yesterday at Butchers Hall. Mr P. M. Colebrook and Mr E. R. Gunner, President of the Royal Smithfield Club, were the speakers. Among the guests were officials of the Royal Smithfield Club and the Master and Clerk of the Poulters Company.

Dinners

Speaker
The Speaker gave a dinner in Speaker's House yesterday evening in honour of the South-Wales Committee of the Variety Club of Great Britain. The guests were:
Mr and Mrs Malcolm Abrahams, Mr John Adams, Mr Lyndsey Adams, Mr and Mrs Hugo Amaya-Torres, Mr and Mrs Norman Bromley, the Hon Timothy and Mrs Buxton, Mr and Mrs Wyn Calvin, Mr and Mrs David Campbell, Mr Ted Cleveland, Mr and Mrs Michael Creighton-Griffiths, Mr Eugene Creighton-Griffiths, Mr and Mrs Derek Davies, Mr and Mrs Dino Forte, Miss Barbara Frieze, Mr and Mrs John Hamilton-Jones, Miss Amanda Hamilton-Jones, Mr and Mrs Lyn Jones, Mr Ewart Morgan, Mr and Mrs Edmund Rabajotti, Mr and Mrs Tommy Rees, Mr and Mrs Maurice Simove, Mr and Mrs Stanley Thomas and Mr and Mrs Robert Webster.

Makers of Playing Cards Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, was present at the annual dinner of the Makers of Playing Cards Company held last night at Mansion House. The Master, Mr S. M. Edell, presided and the other speakers were the Lord Mayor, Lord Scarman, the Archdeacon of London, Mr Victor Watson and the Senior Warden, Mr J. G. B. Watson, MP.

Paviors' Company
The Paviors' Company held a livery dinner at Carpenters' Hall last night. Mr E. B. Cruse, Renter Warden, Mr A. T. B. Shand, President of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, Sir Maurice Laing and Mr W. A. Shapland, Master, were the speakers.

Society of County Treasurers
The annual dinner of the Society of County Treasurers was held last night at Painters' Hall. The President, Mr Michael C. Beasley, County Treasurer of the Royal County of Berkshire, was in the chair and the principal guests and speakers were Mr D. N. Miller, director, Coopers and Lybrand Associates, and Professor G. W. Jones, Professor of Government, London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London.

British Association of Surgical Oncology
The British Association of Surgical Oncology, The Marsden Surgical Society and the Farmitalia Carlo Erba Dining Club gave a dinner in honour of Professor Jerome J. DeCosse, President of the American Society of Surgical Oncology, last night at the Stafford Hotel, St James's Place. Mr Ian Burn, President of BASO, presided and the guests included Professor Dame Sheila Sherlock, Professor of Medicine, University of London; Sir Alan Parks, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and Major General Norman Kirby, Director of Army Surgery. Mr Donald J. Lewis, Managing Director of Farmitalia Carlo Erba Limited, was also present.

Leeds Law Students' Society
At the annual dinner of the Leeds Law Students' Society, held on Thursday, Mr L R. Boyd was the principal guest. A vote of thanks was proposed by Judge Dean, president. Mr J. R. Guest, Secretary, responded for the society.

London Society of Rugby Football Union Referees
The London Society of Rugby Football Union Referees held a dinner last night at the Café Royal. Mr A. J. Wright, president, was in the chair

Service dinners

Royal Navy Club of 1765 and 1785
The Duke of Edinburgh presided at a dinner given by the Royal Navy Club of 1765 and 1785 at the Porter Tun Room last night to commemorate the Battle of Cape Matapan (March 28, 1941). Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin was the guest of the club.

17/21st Lancers
The annual dinner of the 17/21st Lancers was held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club. Colonel M. C. Watson, Colonel of the Regiment, presided.

East Lowlands Universities Air Squadron
Marshal of the RAF Sir Neil Cameron, Principal of King's College, London, was the guest of honour at the East Lowlands Universities Air Squadron's annual dinner held at Edinburgh University yesterday. Squadron Leader K. B. Patrick, Squadron Commander, presided and the other guests included:
Lord Balerno, Lord Ross, QC, Air Marshal Sir Michael Beavis, Air Officer C-in-C RAF Support Command, the Chief Constable of the Lothian and Borders Police, the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Stirling University, the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Edinburgh University, the Principal of Napier College of Commerce and Technology, Edinburgh.

Posthumous award for classroom device

By Carolyn O'Grady, of "The Times Educational Supplement"

Prizes worth £6,000 were presented yesterday to the winners of a competition for teachers organized by *The Times Educational Supplement* and Hestair Hope Ltd, educational equipment manufacturers. The "Brainwave" competition was designed to find original classroom aids, and prizes were given to the winning teachers and their schools.

The winner, Mr Richard Hobbs, aged 38, who died recently, was Head of North Lancing Middle School, in Sussex. The prize money of £500 was presented to his widow by Mr Stuart Maclure, editor of the *TES*, at a presentation in London.

Mr Hobbs's school receives £1,000, which will be given to a memorial fund set up by the school for him. The money will be spent on refurbishing the schoolhall and on stage equipment.

The winning invention was a Perspex and wooden dice with moveable small pieces instead of dots. The dice can help to explain simple ideas about numbers nursery and primary schools.

Debate on museums sought

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

In a move to draw attention to the plight of Britain's national museums and galleries, Lord Strabolgi, opposition spokesman on the arts in the House of Lords, yesterday tabled a motion demanding a full-scale debate.

It is likely to take place in the new year and will be the first full debate on the arts in the Lords for about eight years.

Mr Paul Channon, Minister for the Arts, is due to announce today the Government's grant for the arts for next year, in the light of the Prime Minister's assurance earlier in the week that museums would receive "some increase". Mrs Margaret Thatcher's comment came after a warning that unless the Government increased its grants the British Museum would have to close in two to three years and other museums and galleries would be very severely affected.

Lord Strabolgi said yesterday that he believed the national museums and galleries must be funded by the Government, although private funding and sponsorship was very valuable for special exhibitions.

He wants the departmental museums such as the Victoria and Albert, which is part of the Department of Education and Science, to come, Like the British Museum, under independent trusteeship.

25 Years Ago

From The Times of Monday December 3 1956

Stiffening Resistance

From Our Own Correspondent

Vienna, Dec 2. — Reports reaching Vienna from Hungary point to passive resistance continuing in most parts of the country, in the teeth of efforts by the Kadar puppet government, backed by Soviet bayonets, to restore some semblance of normality. Normality in the Communist sense implies the re-establishment of the "leading role" of the party in the economic and political life, and this is proving so far impossible after the total bankruptcy of past party policy.

Bloxham School

The Governors of Bloxham School announce the forthcoming retirement of Mr Derek Seymour as headmaster at the end of the Summer Term, 1982. He will have served the school for 17 years and carried out a major modernization programme costing £1½m. The Chapter of Southern Division of Woodard Schools have appointed Mr Michael Vallance as his successor. He is at present Headmaster of Durham School, Chairman of the North East Division of Headmasters' Conference, and formerly of Abingdon and Harrow Schools.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:
Dr G. Thalben-Ball to be organist emeritus of the Temple Church from January 1, 1982.
Lady Ackner to be a member of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Sultan's visit

The Sultan of Oman, Qaboos Bin Said, has accepted an invitation from the Queen to pay a State visit to the United Kingdom from March 16 to 19, 1982.

OBITUARY

MR WALLACE HARRISON

Notable contribution to American architecture

Mr Wallace K. Harrison, the American architect who died on December 2 at the age of 86, designed many prominent commercial and other buildings but is most widely known as the executive architect of the United Nations headquarters in New York.

The conception of the headquarters was the work of a committee of architects from several countries, whose disagreements earned publicity and controversy. When Harrison undertook the execution of the project he retained the tall glass-walled secretariat building more or less in the form devised by the committee (or, so he claimed, by Le Corbusier, one of its members) but he redesigned the adjoining assembly building.

He was closely concerned with the design of the Rockefeller Centre and was the architect of the Metropolitan Opera House.

The United Nations building was completed in 1953, and in the following years Harrison, with his partner Max Abramovitz, was responsible for several other of New York's architectural landmarks, including the Corning Glass Building (1959), the Time-Life Building (1960) and the Lincoln Centre (1962-68) where he laid out the group of theatres and concert-halls which were individually designed by various architects of whom Harrison was one. The firm also designed two important commercial buildings at Pittsburgh: the aluminium-clad Alcoa Building (1952) and the US Steel Building (1971).

Wallace Kirkman Harrison was born at Worcester, Mass., on September 28, 1895. After working as a draughtsman with a local firm of architects, he moved to New York in 1916 to join the influential firm of McKim, Mead and White. After service in the navy he studied architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris and on his return to America worked first for Bertram Goodhue and then, after Goodhue's death in 1924, for Helmle and Corbett.

In 1935 Harrison formed his own partnership, first with J. André Fouilhoux and then, after Fouilhoux had been killed in an accident on a building site in 1945, with Abramovitz. The most notable product of the first partnership was the design of the Trylon and Perisphere, the pair of giant geometrical symbols that gave its visual identity to the New York World's Fair of 1938-39. In 1945-46 Harrison was temporarily in Washington as director of the Office of Inter-American Affairs.

In 1948 he was appointed an honorary corresponding member of the Royal Institute of British Architects. In 1967 he received the gold medal of the American Institute of Architects. He married, in 1926, Ellen Hunt Milton by whom he had one daughter.

MR HAROLD BLACKBURN

Mr Harold Blackburn, a bass with the Sadler's Wells company (now the English National Opera) since 1948, has died in London at the age of 56.

He was born at Hamilton, Scotland, on April 25, 1925, and studied privately before making his operatic debut with the Carl Rosa company in 1947. The following year he joined Sadler's Wells and soon began to make his mark in small parts. He was equally adept at tackling serious and buffo roles, and always engaged the attention of his audience through his keen concentration on the text. His portrayals were carefully thought out, not taken from stock.

At Sadler's Wells he tackled almost every important bass part in the Italian and French field. After the company moved to the London Coliseum in 1968, he further expanded his repertory, notably in the German section. He tackled Fasolt and Hunding, in the *Ring* and proved a formidable Baron Ochs, where again the clarity of his words was an asset. Meanwhile, the company's exploration of less familiar works gave him a chance to try out new characterizations, among which the Bailiff in *Werter*, and Mustapha in *The Italian Girl in Algiers* were notable.

In 1967 he created the role of William Humpage in Richard Rodney Bennett's *A Penny for a Song* at Sadler's Wells, a role in which he was required to sit on a branch at the end of a tree throughout the length of the performance. He also appeared, as guest, at various times with Scottish Opera and the English Opera Group.

He is survived by his wife, the soprano Joyce Gartside. They had two children.

MR LOUIS MICHAELS

Louis Michaels, the theatre owner and impresario, has died at the age of 78.

His retail interests began in the post war years when he established the Chanelle and Maryon chain of fashion stores in Bournemouth. He later bought J. J. Allen Ltd which became the parent company for his numerous departmental store interests.

He entered show business relatively late after selling his Maryon fashion stores and J. J. Allen departmental stores to the House of Fraser.

An active member of the Society of West End Theatres, and an associate member of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, he owned both the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, which he described as "perhaps the greatest theatre in the world — certainly in Britain" and the Strand, which he bought only last year.

He also owned several provincial theatres including the Richmond Theatre and the Theatre Royal, Brighton.

He was Chairman of Triumph Theatre Productions Ltd, which has to date presented 40 West End Shows, more than 100 pantomimes and countless touring productions.

In 1962 he founded the new St John's Wood Synagogue and Community Centre in Grove End Road. In 1964/5 he built the Florence Michaels Hall in memory of his mother. In 1966/7 he founded, together with Rabbi Shlomo Lorenz, member of the Knesset and the Agudat Israel party, the S'Dei Chened school in Israel for underprivileged children from all over the world.

He was Life Chairman, and deeply involved with Purley schools.

ANDREW STYPULKOWSKI

Andrew Stypulkowski, the Polish publisher and fighter for human rights, died in London on November 25. He was 52.

Arrested by the Gestapo in the Second World War but then released, he took part at the age of 15 in the Warsaw 1944 uprising. After the war he came to Britain and graduated at the University of London, and became a publisher.

He produced a stream of books in Polish and Russian which in spite of censorship reached Poland and the Soviet Union, as well as exiled Poles. They included the original *Samizdat* manuscripts — for example, by Roy Medvedev and Nadezhda Mandelstam; memoirs and works by exiled writers such as Alexander Wat and Alexander Nekrich; prohibited classics such as those of Joseph Conrad; and translations of Western writers such as Freud. Many of the original books were then published also in Western languages.

In his struggle for human rights Stypulkowski was an active member of the British group formed against the abuse of psychiatry in the Soviet Union. His father, Zbigniew, who was one of the accused in the 1945 Moscow trial of the 16 Polish underground leaders of the anti-German resistance, died two years ago in London.

Andrew Stypulkowski is survived by his mother, Alexandra, who was imprisoned during the war in the Ravensbrück Nazi concentration camp and by his wife, Irma and two daughters.

SIR JAMES GRANT

Sir James Monteith Grant, KCVO, Lord Lyon King of Arms from 1969 until earlier this year, died on December 1 at the age of 78.

He was born on October 19, 1903 and educated at Edinburgh Academy and Edinburgh University where he took his MA and LLB. He became a Writer to the Signet in 1927.

He was appointed Carrick Pursuivant in 1946 and Marchmont Herald in 1957. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. In 1969 he was made KCVO.

He was twice married.

Mr Edmund King, a former chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board's finance and general purposes committee, died on November 25 after being involved in a road accident near Pershore. He was 75. He had served on the committee of Warwickshire County Cricket Club for 45 years and was chairman for 10 years until 1972.

GIUSEPPE RONCALLI

Giuseppe Roncalli, the last surviving brother of Pope John XXIII, died on November 17 on the family farm at Sotto Monte, near Bergamo. He was 87.

The father of 10 children and grandfather of 24, he never left the Piedmont family farm where he grew up, except for a visit to Rome during his brother's episcopate. Pope John XXIII died in June, 1963.

Mr Thomas Whiting Taylor, who died on November 26 at the age of 73, was headmaster of Haberdashers' Aske's School, Elstree from 1946 to 1973.

Lady Nicholson, wife of Sir John Nicholson, Bt, FRCS, died on November 27. She was the only daughter of the Rt. Rev. J. F. MacNeice sometime Bishop of Down, and she was married in 1928. She was a sister of the poet Louis MacNiece.

Moreover . . . Miles Kington

As an aid to your Christmas shopping, here are lists of the ten best-selling items in various seasonal categories:

Calendars
1. The British Heritage Calendar of English Villages with Parked Cars and Litter Removed.
2. The Twelve Most Beautiful Municipal Flower Beds in Britain.
3. The British Heritage Calendar of Villages with no Pub, Shop or Bus Stop.
4. Twelve Most Picturesque Nooks and Crannies ofSussex University.
5. British Motorway Heritage Calendar of Views From the Fast Lane.
6. Brideshead Revisited Recycled Calendar.
7. The Country Calendar of an Edwardian Multi-Million Pound Industry.
8. The Lord Scarman Black and White Calendar.
9. The Jimmy Savile OBE Awaymonth Calendar.
10. The Lord Lichfield Twelve Most Divine Views in Britain Calendar.

Christmas Cards
1. Traditional: robins in the snow.
2. Antique: robins in a sixteenth-century Italian painting by Vermicelli.
3. Home-made: drawing by Drusilla (aged six) of robin, or perhaps a seagull coloured red.
4. Topical: robins with machine guns.
5. Satirical: dish of roast robin with Brussels sprouts and all the trimmings.
6. Charity: the arrival of the three wise robins (with Merry Christmas in 10 languages on the back).
7. Expensive: pop-up, 3-D robin.
8. Humorous: robin on an Australian beach with bathing beauties and tins of lager.
9. Nostalgic: original label of Robin starch package.
10. Japanese: exquisite drawing of exotic birds which seems to suggest that they do not have robins in Japan.

Diaries
1. The Victoria and Albert Museum Diary (due to economy cuts, Fridays not listed).
2. The Social Democrat Diary 'n' Entry Form (by post only, £9).
3. The Royal Baby Countdown Diary.
4. The British Leyland Tea Break Diary.
5. The Express Newspapers Diary (comes complete with three newspapers — any offer considered).
6. *The Sun* Bingo Diary.
7. The Cliff Richard Diary (for all those who are younger at 40 than they were at 20).
8. The Common Market Metric 10-Month Diary.
9. The Whole Earth Recycled 1981 Diary.
10. The Ronald Reagan End-of-the-World Diary.

Television

Special abilities

Alison French was one of three disabled people in the marvellous programme made for *Man Alive* in April by Ann Paul and Michael Dean (another of whom, incidentally, the jubilant Steve Burton of ICI, has since qualified as a barrister and recently received a "Man of the Year" award alongside the likes of Alan Wells and P.C. Lock). Alison is a 17-year-old athetoid spastic whose talents and determination are such that Paul and Dean decided to follow her progress through the rest of the year, and Roger Mills's *Forty Minutes* (BBC 2) series gave them the ideal format in which to do so.

Whilst completing her time at the special school, Alison moved into a YWCA, sharing with three other girls. She ate noodles with a knife and fork and joked about chopsticks. She made up her lips for the school dance and cursed the fiddly eye-shadow box when it fell on the floor, retrieving it firmly and dabbing the shadow on more or less straight. She acquired a Scouse boyfriend ("*I* like him. Nobody else does") whose hair was dark at the start of the programme and blond by the end. She passed her driving test *first time*. Almost everything about her — intelligence, energy, humour and enthusiasm — is developing all the time, but her speech is distorted, particularly under stress, and her unpredictable body is never still.

What can she do? Officials in her home town of Watford were helpful and impressed — but not, I think, intimidated into gestures by the camera's presence — and placed her on the Youth Opportunities programme until next month. Then what? "We've been separating the disabled from the able-bodied for too long", she said. "It's not good enough." She is right of course — the division did not exist when all families cared for their own for life — and it may be that, like Steve Burton of ICI, Alison French is destined to be an agent of reconciliation. That she has all the qualities for it in abundance nobody watching *Forty Minutes* would ever doubt.

Michael Ratcliffe

Cinema

Germany's sensational schoolgirls

Christiane F. (X)

Studio, Oxford Street; Gate, Camden Town

Mädchen in Uniform (A)

Everyman

Tibet: A Buddhist Trilogy

I.C.A.

3-D Spectacular

I.C.A.

Force: Five (X)

Rialto

Christiane F., the phenomenally successful German film about a schoolgirl's life among West Berlin's drug addicts, does not open in London until December 17, but it has been shown to the press in advance to ease the log-jam of Christmas entertainment just around the corner. The film also chimes oddly with Leontine Sagan's *Mädchen in Uniform*, another film about schoolgirls which caused a parallel sensation in a far different Germany 50 years ago. This can be seen in a newly subtitled print at the Hampstead Everyman from Sunday.

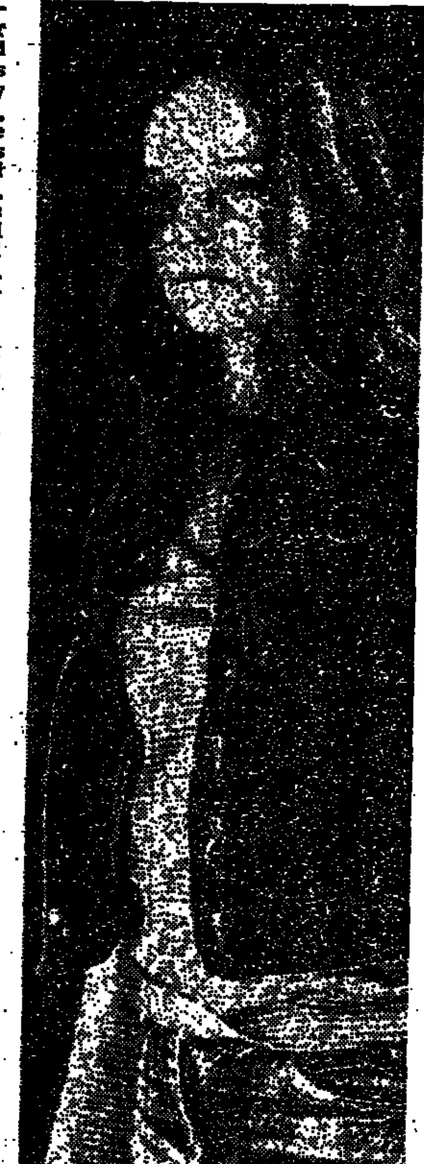
Christiane's initial cloaks the identity of a young court witness whose interview with a journalist in 1978 provided twelve weeks of essential reading for the news magazine *Stern*. The film — a first cinema feature for the director Ulrich Edel — charts the descent of this teenager into an underworld where parents, homework and early bedtimes are unknown. She begins aged 13 by visiting the Sound discothèque and asking for an innocuous cherry juice; within minutes she is staring at a dazed addict, the needle still dangling from a vein. On her fourteenth birthday she passes out chunks of birthday cake to street-walkers by the Zoo railway station; desperate to keep pace with her new colleagues, she starts sniffing heroin and graduates to the syringe. Attempts to kick the habit are very painful and short-lived. There is a happy ending of sorts, at least for Christiane F.; others are not so lucky.

Edel presents this stark narrative in a style of frenzied realism, taking his cameras to the real locations of Christiane's drama wherever possible (the Zoo station itself, under the jurisdiction of East Berlin, had to be photographed by cameras concealed in suit- cases). Visually the film glowers at the audience, with its night landscapes of concrete canyons flecked with cold neon, its decrepit interiors sprouting vice and graffiti; David Bowie's music track, throbbing and sullen, provides a perfect complement. This urban hell is peopled by non-professional actors; Christiane herself is played, with remarkable skill, by a schoolgirl, Natja Brunkhorst.

The film's assured style, however, produces some seriously equivocal effects. On the surface this is a cautionary tale sufficient to sober up any wayward youngster, but bubbling underneath there are undeniable elements of exploitation. Edel dwells so long on the needle in the vein, the pen-nib pricking the skin (for a tattoo), that he approaches the threshold of the vicarious thrill. The faces of his girl addicts, too, have a sweet beauty that would not disgrace a piece of soft-core pornography. *Christiane F.* certainly presents a bold, disturbing picture of urban society; it also disturbs of its own accord.

Fifty years ago the sensational aspect of *Mädchen in Uniform* consisted of a kiss on the mouth between two females. It takes far more to shock us now, but Leontine Sagan's film still deserves attention through cinematic merit alone. Sagan — one of the many shadowy figures haunting film history — was trained as a stage actress and director in Germany, but the film career that seemed to beckon after *Mädchen* (itself based on a stage play, by Christa Winsloe) never materialized. Alexander Korda brought her to England to try the same subject-matter — turbulent student life — with an Oxford setting, but the result, *Men of Tomorrow*, ran into post-production problems. Sagan turned back to the theatre; what is more, she turned to Ivor Novello and produced *Glamorous Night*. She died in 1974, in South Africa.

Theatrical traditions play an important part in *Mädchen in Uniform*, but they enhance rather than cramp its style, perhaps because Sagan was working under the supervision of an experienced cinema craftsman, Carl Froelich. Sagan uses the grand staircase of the film's Potsdam boarding school like a piece if stage décor: it provides an attractive visual background but also grows into a symbol of the school's regimented life and proves invaluable at the climax, when the film's leading "maiden", Manuela, submits to inner turmoil and prepares to throw herself down the stairwell. Sagan's theatrical background also shows in the controlled expressiveness of the acting. The headmistress, as played



Natja Brunkhorst as Christiane

by Emilia Unda, is a forbidding creation, ruling her domain with a walking stick and sentiments like "Hunger is what made Prussia great" (scanty rations are a particular complaint of the girls). But most attention is thrown upon Manuela herself, painfully sweet and vulnerable in Hertha Thiele's performance, and Dorothea Wieck's equally vibrant Fraulien von Bernburg — the teacher whose affectionate feelings leads her to kiss all her pupils goodnight and lend Manuela one of her own chemises.

Over the years Sagan's carefully controlled psychological drama has been used as a battleground for several causes. In the Thirties it was praised and interpreted as an anti-Fascist document, though there is no conclusive proof that Manuela's emotional rebellion changes the school's harsh regime. In recent years the film has been rediscovered by feminists, alert to its lesbian undertow. Both elements are certainly present — their combined force was sufficient for Goebells to ban the film as unhealthy. But *Mädchen*, like its peripatetic director, refuses to be pigeon-holed. It combines cinematic fluidity with theatrical artifice — not a common achievement in the German cinema of 1931. Above all, it is a powerful fable — not about Fascism, not about feminism, but about the entire human spirit under threat.

Elsewhere in London, the ICA cinema is offering threatened human spirits rejuvenating trips to other worlds. Tibet: A Buddhist Trilogy, showing until December 20, is an astonishing achievement, made by a British team headed by Graham Coleman (writer and director) and David Lascelles (producer and photographer). Their camera penetrates into the most intimate corners of Tibetan life and thought: the lamas' preparations for a ritual rightly known as "A Beautiful Ornament" — the careful burning of a departed member of the monastery community — the rapt face of a departed monk in contemplation. There is no omniscient narrator shaping and ordering these amazing sights; instead, the activities are explained by subtitles. In a manner entirely fitting for a portrait of Buddhist culture, the film-makers seem entirely at one with their subject; it is up to each spectator to open his or her eyes and mind to the wonders on display.

The ICA's other main attraction takes us into the world of three-dimensional cinema. "It's the biggest thing that's ever happened in our time!" shouts an ecstatic Richard Carlson in the 1953 production *It Came from Outer Space*, which launches the month-long season tomorrow. He is actually talking about the strange object which plummets from nowhere into the Arizona desert, but his remark encapsulates all the hopes Hollywood put into the 3-D process. These films certainly provided images impossible to capture on the movies' new rival, television, but audiences soon tired of wearing special glasses only to see poor films larded with novelty effects.

There is fortunately little space for a discussion of Force: Five, a heinous concoction from the director Robert Clouse notable only for the way it twists the Jonestown story into a subject for kung-fu malarkey. Fowler would have been intrigued by the title's colon.

Geoff Brown

Theatre

Bulldog tenacity

Gypsy

Haymarket, Leicester

No point in pretending otherwise; the exceptional interest in Leicester's *Gypsy* has everything to do with Noele Gordon, a long-time featured player in a television programme called *Crossroads*. Had she not been relegated to exile from her soap opera just before taking on the musical role of Gypsy Rose Lee's mother, the attention might have been on the musical itself, following in the Leicester Haymarket's tradition of successes which include *Oklahoma!*, *My Fair Lady* and *Oliver!*

Miss Gordon has not the primal force of Ethel Merman, nor the musical character of another predecessor, Angela Lansbury. Nor is it her singing that gives her the illusion of being a talent greater than her daughters June Havoc and Gypsy, but rather the kind of bulldog tenacity which she amply demonstrates in seizing the songs as dramatic recitations of ambition. With her as Rose, the most fearsome stage mother before the invention of Brooke Shields, it is a bit difficult to imagine tender emotions threatening her obsession with success.

Such gentle feelings matter in the finely constructed play, with music by Jule Styne, book by Arthur Laurants and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, for they modulate the inevitability of Gypsy Rose Lee's rise to the pinnacle of striptease fame by supplying romantic disappointments and vaudeville failures before they reach the bumps and grinds of stardom.

Although Miss Gordon contributes little to that, leaving such things to the long-suffering agent handsomely played by Paul Maxwell, she does strike an image of a woman who cannot accept that her daughter's success is her own failure.

Roger Redfern's production succeeds also as a piece of story-telling, but the dancing is uninspired even where it is meant to be superior, which is not always. Discreetly costumed strippers in delivering banal bumps and lazy grinds do not ignite even to the Styne music of "You've Gotta Get A Gimmick" or Gypsy's "Let Me Entertain You."

That does not help Fiona Fullerton, whose pale prettiness contradicts the text anyway despite her discipline and obvious charm. Terry Parsons has supplied a set that looks built to last, and despite quibbles it looks ready to entertain for a long time.

Ned Chaillet

Concerts

BBCSO/Pritchard

Festival Hall/Radio 3

Man as hero, man as God as hero: religious and humanistic aspiration and glorification crossed their arbitrary borders and embraced on Wednesday in performances by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under their conductor-elect, John Pritchard, of Schubert's A flat Mass and Richard Strauss's *Ein Heldenleben*.

Just as it is the strong-featured, Beethovenian Schubert as much as the gentle Biedermaier portrait that we see in this *Missa Solemnis*, so it is very much the human and the heroic Christ that Schubert glorifies. In the exuberant Gloria, voices welded as hard and bright as the brass, in the trombone's theatrical invocation to the Sanctus, and in the rhythmically and harmonically virile closing plea for peace, both orchestra and BBC Symphony Chorus sharpened our awareness of the fact.

Strauss was not alone in having "no particular liking" for his overblown autobiography of the creator-hero, the primary colours of his own portrait ebbing and flowing into the upturned faces of Kaiser Wilhelm II's Germany and the pre-echo of an even later view of Nietzsche's superman.

On Wednesday each solo voice even took on heroic, virtuoso proportions, brought well upstage, sometimes at the expense of immaculate unison and ensemble playing. Yet both in detail and in overall conception this was, on the whole, an unusually satisfying performance. Spacious in its power, elegant even in the midst of battle, and not without some welcome ironic humour in its deftly assimilated turns of parody, it focused our attention above all on the super-hero of this work, Strauss as symphonist and orchestral craftsman.

Hilary Finch

Cambridge University Musical Society

King's Chapel

It was a model university concert at Cambridge on Wednesday: an experiment with the classics, and a newish work by the local professor. Alexander Goehr's work was *Babylon the Great is Fallen*, written for the BBC Symphony Chorus and, since they performed it, slightly revised — usually, it seemed, in the direction of greater drama in choral writing.

Babylon is is a large, four-movement choral cantata, built on biblical texts that speak of the ending of oppression, the rise of a Utopia and the return of disillusion and misery. The ideas are grand, and so are the musical effects: the work is conceived in broad spans, with spells of brilliant, flattering, frenzied orchestral writing set against slow-moving, austere choral music. Much of the writing for chorus is fugal, and of that a good deal, especially in the first half, has a formal, academic ring, of music all too thoroughly worked out. Yet, as one listens on, and grasps the scale, so the design comes to make at the least retrospective sense.

Though much in *Babylon* represents a new reading of an old choral tradition, much too is fresh and vivid — the various kinds of heterophony, which echoed so richly in King's Chapel, or the big, hieratic effects painted with a large brush, with ringing choral sonorities against orchestral bustle. Orchestrally it was too difficult even for the skilled CUMS players and inevitably lost something of its glitter and its focus; but the choral writing was well served by these young voices. The composer conducted.

The one certain thing about Mozart's *Requiem* is the uncertainty as to how much Mozart actually wrote. Wednesday's performance divested it of the contribution of that "poor musician of very limited technique and ability", to quote Richard Maunder, the Cambridge mathemetician responsible for this new version, on Sussmayr.

Dr Maunder omits the "Sanctus" and "Osannas", which is reasonable, and also the "Benedictus". He has recomposed much of the "Lacrymosa" — interestingly, if with less sure a grasp of eighteenth-century style than Sussmayr — and supplied a slightly banal "Amen" chorus, after a Mozart sketch, to follow it. He has revised much of the orchestration, usually presenting Mozart's ideas more clearly and with more characteristic accompanying textures, and with some persuasive solutions to problems that baffled (or should have baffled) Sussmayr, though some changes seemed arbitrary. Philip Ledger conducted a rather speedy and unusually dramatic performance.

Stanley Sadie

Dance

Relationships in pairs

London Contemporary

Sadler's Wells

This week's programme by London Contemporary Dance Theatre at Sadler's Wells includes four works new to that stage. The most substantial is *Free Setting*, in which Siobhan Davies collaborated with Michael Finnissy and David Buckland, allowing their ideas about (respectively) the music and design to influence her approach to the choreography.

Finissy's score for solo piano imposes a strong rhythm with much variety of volume and pace. Davies seems only rarely to try to match it, apparently choosing mainly to set up a similar but separate pattern within the dances. Buckland uses plastic sheets, some coloured, some with photographic negatives of the dancers, larger than life, to conceal or reveal parts of the stage according to their position and the way they are lit.

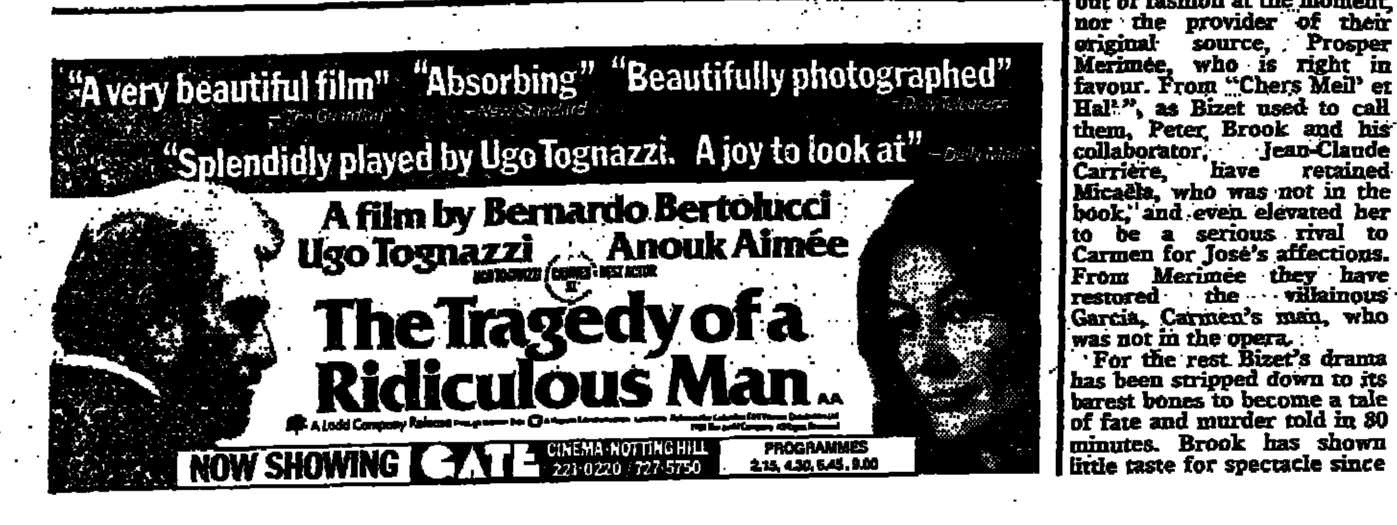
Davies deploys her cast of 10 mostly in the duets which seem to be her favourite form of dance; she and Patrick Harding-Irmer, Anca Frankenhaeuser and Philippe Giraudeau have the most extensive explorations of movement relationships. The effect of appearing or disappearing behind the screens has perhaps prompted the similar use she makes of the sides of the stage.

By comparison with her gently paced and extensively developed work, the other new pieces are brief and hectic: three 10-minute sketches taken over from an experimental season at The Place last summer. All reveal bright ideas which are only partly translated into terms of movement.

Philip Taylor, casting himself as a man dreaming of being a baseball star, employs steps from disparate sources amusingly, but too indulgently to build any climax. Sallie Estep's sung or shouted commentary (these dancers are unusually versatile) is the best thing in *The Homerun*.

Jayne Lee took an idea from Dylan Thomas for *Recall* and Darshan Bhuller from Athol Fugard for *Beyond the Law*, but neither succeeds in making clear the purpose or attitudes through the choreography. Lee has some interesting relationships of shape and space among her three dancers; Bhuller sets Michael Small and Lizie Saunderson moving with intense energy. His work gains impact from Jon Keliehor's angry rock score, in the performance of which Eleanor Alberga completes an impressive series of contributions to the evening as pianist, cheerleader and percussionist in successive works.

John Percival



Opera

Brook's enhancing vision

La tragédie de Carmen

Les Bouffes du Nord, Paris

Peter Brook's Les Bouffes du Nord, tucked away by the railway lines running into the Gare du Nord, remains a bright beacon in a dingy corner of Paris. Little has changed since he moved in here seven years ago with *Timon of Athens*. A little more stucco, perhaps, has crumbled off his shell of a theatre and the interior back wall has blackened even further; the seats may be a shade more comfortable than they were. The enthusiasm of his public though seems to grow by the year. And rightly so.

The ticket-holders for the sold-out houses of *Carmen* queue up outside the doors an hour before the start so that they can seize the best places in a theatre where, at a flat £5 a head, none of the seats is reserved. Forty minutes later the auditorium is virtually full, apart from the top balcony. Brook followers know that the closer to the action you are the better. For his version of *Carmen* there are no latecomers, only early ones.

When Bernard Lefort of the Paris Opéra approached Brook with the suggestion of a co-production with the Bouffes du Nord both *From the House of the Dead* and *The Turn of the Screw* were on the shopping list. Brook, ever unpredictable, countered with *Carmen*, an opera composed when the Bouffes was in its first heyday. So *Carmen* it was, and Brook promised that it would be different, which was rather important to Lefort, who had planned a series of starry performances of that very opera at much the same time over at the Palais des Sports.

Peter Brook has certainly kept his word. And in doing so he has favoured neither Bizet's librettists, Meilhac and Halevy, who are much out of fashion at the moment, nor the provider of their original source, Prosper Merimée, who is right in favour. From "Chers Meil' et Hal'", as Bizet used to call them, Peter Brook and his collaborator, Jean-Claude Carrière, have retained Micaëla, who was not in the book, and even elevated her to be a serious rival to Carmen for José's affections. From Merimée they have restored the villainous Garcia, Carmen's man, who was not in the opera.

For the rest Bizet's drama has been stripped down to its barest bones to become a tale of fate and murder told in 80 minutes. Brook has shown little taste for spectacle since he came to Paris and there is none at the Bouffes, just a few sacks of straw, a dirty carpet and a playing area spread with the dust and grit of Andalucia.

José seals his destiny at the start of the opera. To Bizet's fate motif, played by an orchestra of 14 at the back of the stage — so much for singers who keep their eyes on the conductor rather than on one another — he ignores a playing card offered him by an old beggar woman. Micaëla, who follows him, takes hers and gives a coin in exchange. Thereafter for José it is downhill all the way, particularly as that beggar turns out to be Carmen with a flower as well as a pack of cards.



Eva Saurova's sultry Carmen, with Julian Pike

As played by Julian Pike, José is not the handsome soldier of grand opera but a spiky-haired tearaway, who has joined the army because life was becoming too hot for him in his native Basque country. Infatuation with Carmen forces him to murder. He strangles his superior officer, Zuniga, out of jealousy. He knifes Garcia in a duel and rejoices when he learns that for once it is Escamillo and not the bull who dies. Finally, when Carmen withdraws what little love she has for him, he stabs her in the back as the percussion softly plays the ebbing heartbeat of the Habanera. As in Merimée, José lives on to tell his bloody story.

Peter Brook narrates in close-up, sucking his audience into fiercely violent emotions, and using the most familiar of Bizet's melodies to make his dramatic points. As Escamillo reaches the climax of his aria of self-glorification the corpse of Zuniga rolls off its supporting pile of sacks. Micaëla's relief in "Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante" comes from the fact that the cadaver she spies is that of Garcia and not José. Carmen comes back to José at the end of the Flower Song because it *is* an irresistible number, and together they go off to the mountains for their only hours of contentment.

As the orchestra plays the Act III Prelude, José and Carmen are in one another's arms. A gypsy lights three small fires of kindling wood near them — the GLC safety officers would have a fit — and draws a protective circle to enclose them Brunnhilde-style. It *is* the supreme moment in an evening of theatrical magic.

Peter Brook draws four singers for each performance from a pool of 10. My Carmen, from the available three, was Eva Saurova, a luscious creature with the sultry good looks of a Vivaine Romance and a voice to go with them. She looked as if she could devour men, officers and ORs, for breakfast. A marvellous interpretation. Véronique Dietschy's Micaëla — a choice of two here — was a fragile figure using her native pluck to see her through in a hostile world; her soprano carried excellently in the Bouffes. The men were vocally less secure: Julian Pike was probably not the best of the Josés and John Rath's lithe Escamillo, a toreador rather farther down the pecking order than he would wish, was better acted than sung. The Zuniga (a laconic performance from Jean-Paul Denizon) and Lillas Pastia and Garcia (gingery ruffians doubled by Alain Maratrat) remain the same each evening and there is certainly no need to change them. The orchestra plays with superb clarity for Marius Constant, who has adapted Bizet's score.

After the *Carmen* at the Palais des Sports, the intended super-show which got nowhere near its aspirations, Peter Brook's version comes as a revelation. There may be vocal weaknesses, but as drama it shows a master at peak form. And much credit goes to the Paris Opéra, which in the same week can have under its wing Caballe and Horne in *Semiramide* and *La Tragédie de Carmen* at the Bouffes.

La tragédie de Carmen plays nightly from Tuesday to Saturday, with a matinée on Sunday, until April.

John Higgins

Rock

Cliff Richard

Odeon, Hammersmith

It may not have been Bruce Springsteen but neither, quite emphatically, was it the all-round entertainment of a Tommy Steele. On Wednesday Cliff Richard, at 41, gave a bona fide rock and roll show in which, by contrast with last year's over-produced ragbag, he managed to reconcile virtually all the phases of a 23-year career.

By now it has to be accepted that he is prone to startling lapses of taste, like the inevitably appalling shoes and the use of a Walkman cassette machine as a prop in "Wired for Sound", and that his dreadful boyish humour, less camp than holiday-camp, has long obscured some of his deeper rock and roll qualities.

This time, however, in a second half which celebrated the early years of the music, he again mysteriously became the snake-hipped lad of *Oh Boy*, driving through "Dynamite", Johnny Kidd's "Shakin' All Over", Little Richard's "Long Tall Sally" and the Everly Brothers' arrangement of "Lucille" (a wonderfully imaginative touch) with an enjoyment which verged on abandon.

The rearrangement of Presley's "Teddy Bear" in the style of "Suspicious Minds" may have been merely perverse, and the immortal "Move It" was ruined by gratuitous anachronisms, but "Gee Whiz it's You", "Daddy's Home" and several others glowingly kept faith with their original models.

The close harmonies of "Daddy's Home" drew particular attention to the brilliantly sympathetic work of the three backing singers, directed by Tony Rivers, who had earlier provided skilful assistance in a trilogy of "Don't Talk to Him", "Miss You Nights" and "We Don't Talk Any More" which closed a first half consisting mainly of a brisk canter through Cliff's recent high-tech power-pop style, at its best in "Dreaming" but now surely — unlike the performer — due for renovation.

Richard Williams

Stock Exchange Prices

Sharp falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 23. Dealings End, Dec 4. § Contango Day, Dec 7. Settlement Day, Dec 14

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days



BRITISH FUNDS

1980/81 High	Low	Stock			Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
SHORTS								
99⁵⁄₁₆	88	Treas	8½%	1980-82	99⁵⁄₁₆	+⅛	8.560	13.788
99⅜	81⅞	Treas	3%	1982	97⅜	+1/16	3.069	14.222
102⅜	90½	Treas	14%	1982	99⅞	..	14.017	14.239
96²³⁄₃₂	85½	Treas	8¼%	1982	96¹⁵⁄₁₆ ●	..	8.523	14.307
96⅜	85⅝	Exch	9¼%	1982	96	..	9.635	14.686
95⁷⁄₁₆	84⅞	Exch	8¾%	1983	95⁷⁄₁₆ ●	..	9.168	13.421
92	76½	Exch	3%	1983	89⅞	..	3.338	12.167
99⁷⁄₁₆	86⅝	Treas.	12%	1983	97⅛	..	12.355	14.538
94⅛	84⅛	Treas	9¼%	1983	93⅞	+⅛	9.866	13.651
102⅞	94⅛	Exch	13½%	1983	98⅛	+⅛	13.740	13.580
94⁵⁄₁₆	84⅛	Exch	10%	1983	93⅛	●+⅛	10.739	14.032
88	76⅝	Fund	5½%	1982-84	86	..	6.397	13.968
97¹⁄₁₆	86⅞	Exch	11¼%	1984	93¼	+⅛	12.064	14.800
104⁵⁄₁₆	94½	Exch	14%	1984	98⁷⁄₁₆	..	14.222	14.796
82¼	68⅛	Exch	3%	1984	80⅛ ●	..	3.732	12.204
99⅜	88	Treas	12%	1984	93⅜	..	12.852	14.951
103⅛	95⅛	Treas	15%	1985	98⅞	..	15.171	15.415
98⅞	88⅛	Exch Cv	12%	1985	91½	..	13.115	15.379
76	68²⁵⁄₃₂	Treas	3%	1985	73⅛	..	4.102	12.856
96⁵⁄₁₆	85⅛	Treas	11½%	1985	88⅝	−⅛	12.958	15.647
103⅛	87⅛	Exch	12¼%	1985	91¼	−⅛	13.424	15.275
97⅛	84⅞	Exch	11¾%	1986	88⅝	−⅛	13.295	15.580
69¹³⁄₁₆	65⅛	Treas	3%	1986	69⅛	..	4.348	12.179
97⅛	84⅞	Treas	12%	1986	89	●−⅛	13.482	15.485

MEDIUMS

89⅞	78⅝	Treas	8½%	1984-86	81⅝	+⅛	10.412	14.080
[illegible]								

LONGS

[illegible]	

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

[illegible]	

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

[illegible]	

DOLLAR STOCKS

[illegible]	

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

[illegible]	

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

[illegible]	

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A — B

[illegible]	

C — E

[illegible]	

F — H

[illegible]	

I — L

[illegible]	

M — N

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							
117	97	Man Agcy Music	119	−2	12.5b	10.5	4.2
135	101	Man Ship Canal	103	+2	..e	..	..
38	21	Mang Bronze	25	..	3.1	12.4	..
134	67	Marchwiel	112	+1	8.6	7.7	..
142	76	Marks & Spencer	124	−2	5.8	4.7	16.9
51	33½	Marley Ltd	41	..	3.2	7.8	9.4
29	14½	Marling Ind	28	−1	1.3	4.8	19.6
42	22	Marshall T Lox	37	..	4.0	10.7	3.3
39	21	Do A	36	..	4.0	11.0	3.2
252	178	Martin-News	224	+2	13.9	6.2	5.3
270	171	Martonair	221 ●	..	10.9	4.9	12.9
73	28	Medminster	67	..	5.3	7.9	7.2
250	98	Menzies J.	213 ●	..	5.6	2.6	10.6
220	128	Metal Box	162	+2	16.5	10.2	14.2
54½	35½	Metalrax	41	+1	3.1	7.6	6.7

O — S

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							
58	9	Stone Platt	9	..	..	..	7.5
33	11	Streeters	22	..	..	..	7.5
66	46	Strong & Fisher	46	a −4	7.1	15.5	..
110	42	Sunlight Serv	95	−1	3.6	3.8	7.8
52	25	Sutcliffe S'man	45	..	..e	..	..
188	62½	Swire Pacific 'A'	108½	−1½	..	..	..
201	140	Syltone	160	..	12.9	8.0	17.8

T — Z

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
28	15	TACE	21	..	..e	..	6.3
121	85	TSL Therm Synd	93	..	10.0	10.8	5.1
24½	7³⁄₁₆	Takeda BDR	£21¾	..	17.6	0.8	25.6
9¾	2½	Talbex Grp	5	..	..	..	..
419	182	Tarmac Ltd	380	..	23.3	6.1	6.5
[illegible]							

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

[illegible]	

INSURANCE

[illegible]	

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]	

SHIPPING

[illegible]	

MINES

[illegible]	

OIL

[illegible]	

PROPERTY

[illegible]	

RUBBER

[illegible]	

TEA

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]							
485	350	Camellia Inv	440	..	7.1	1.6	..
378	290	McLeod Russel	348	−2	11.8	3.4	..
332	255	Moran	285	..	7.1f	2.5	..
138	93	Surmah Valley	93	..	1.4	1.5	..
253	132½	Warren Plant	237	h ..	14.3	6.0	

MISCELLANEOUS

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
48	25	Calcutta Elec	38	..	9.1	24.0	..
34½	28½	Essex Wtr 3.5%	£31	..	500	16.1	..
33	17	Gt Nthn Tele	£33	..	150	4.5	12.4
258	150	Imp Cont Gas	186	−2	11.4	6.1	11.8
185	93	Milford Docks	115	..	0.7	0.6	..
193	88	Nesco Inv	130	..	10.0	7.7	..
35	28½	Sunderlnd Wtr	£31	..	500	16.1	..

● Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) December 3	Market rates (close) December 3	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.9285-9600	$1.9345-9355	0.37-0.27c prem	0.88-0.78c prem
Montreal	$2.2760-2975	$2.2845-2855	0.42-0.52c disc	1.05-1.25c disc
Amsterdam	4.70-76fl	4.71½-72½fl	1⅞-1⅝c prem	4-3⅞c prem
Brussels	73.10-74.10f	73.20-30f	11-21c disc	54-64c disc
Copenhagen	13.90-14.04k	13.90½-91½k	95-5ore prem	250-110ore prem
Dublin	1.2120-2270p	1.2150-65p	25-40p disc	900-115p prem
Frankfurt	4.30-35m	4.31½-32½m	1⅞-1⅝pf prem	4⅞-4⅝pf prem
Lisbon	124.00-125.80e	124.60-90e	30-19.5c disc	70-410c disc
Madrid	184.70-186.50p	185.50-70p	30-55c disc	70-210c disc
Milan	2309-31lr	2313½-15½lr	14½-17½lr disc	42½-46½lr disc
Oslo	11.01-11.11k	11.02-03k	885-995ore disc	570-680ore disc
Paris	10.87-97f	10.89-90f	1⅞-3¼c disc	6⅞-7⅝c disc
Stockholm	10.57-67k	10.58-59k	200-180ore prem	530-460ore prem
Tokyo	415-22y	419-20y	300-270y prem	825-790y prem
Vienna	30.20-50sch	30.25-30sch	17-12gro prem	40-31gro prem
Zurich	3.45-50f	3.46½-47½f	1⅞-1⅝c prem	4½-4c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was down 0.4 at 91.4.

Money Market Rates

Clearing Banks Base Rate 14½%

Discount Mkt Loans%
Overnight: High 14½ Low 13½

Week Fixed: 14⅜-14¼

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	14⅛	2 months	14
3 months	13²⁹⁄₃₂	3 months	13¾

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

1 month	14⅝-14⅛	1 month	15⅛
2 months	14⁹⁄₁₆-14⁷⁄₁₆	2 months	15¹⁄₁₆
3 months	14¹⁄₁₆-13¹⁵⁄₁₆	3 months	14¾
6 months	13⅞-13½	6 months	14¼

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	15⅛-14⅞	7 months	14⅝-14⅛
2 months	15⅛-14⅞	8 months	14⅝-14⅛
3 months	15-14⅝	9 months	14⅞-14⅝
4 months	14⅞-14⅝	10 months	14⅞-14⅝
5 months	14⅝-14⅜	11 months	14⅞-14½
6 months	14⅝-14⅜	12 months	14⅞-14⅝

Secondary Mkt. ECD Rates (%)

1 month	14⅞-14⅝	6 months	14⅝-14½
3 months	14⅞-14⅝	12 months	14½-14⅜

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	14⅝	3 months	14¹⁵⁄₁₆
7 days	14⅝	6 months	14⅝
1 month	14⅞	1 year	14½

Interbank Market (%)

Overnight: Open 15-14½ Close 15

1 week	15⅛-14½	6 months	14⅝-14⅜
1 month	15-14⅞	9 months	14¹⁹⁄₃₂-14⁷⁄₁₆
3 months	15¹⁄₁₆-14¹⁵⁄₁₆	12 months	14⅝-14½

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)

3 months	15⅜	6 months	15⅛

Finance House Base Rate 16%

Other Markets

Australia	1.6825-1.6875
Bahrein	0.7265-0.7295
Finland	8.3435-8.3835
Greece	107.70-109.70
Hongkong	10.8165-10.8565
Iran	Not available
Kuwait	0.5375-0.5405
Malaysia	4.3215-4.3515
Mexico	49.55-51.05
New Zealand	2.2930-2.3130
Saudi Arabia	6.5920-6.6220
Singapore	3.9475-3.9775
South Africa	1.8880-1.8830

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.5870-1.5900
† Canada	1.1810-1.1812
Netherlands	2.4410-2.4440
Belgium	37.90-37.95
Denmark	7.2000-7.2100
West Germany	2.2295-2.2310
Portugal	64.40-64.60
Spain	96.00-96.10
Italy	1196.50-1197.00
Norway	5.6965-5.6925
France	5.6300-5.6350
Sweden	5.4730-5.4780
Japan	216.45-216.60
Austria	15.67-15.70
Switzerland	1.7910-1.7930

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
† Canada $1: US$.8463-.8465

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 13¼-12¾; seven days, 12⁹⁄₁₆-12¹¹⁄₁₆; one month, 12⁹⁄₁₆-12¹³⁄₁₆; three months, 13⅛-13; six months, 13⁵⁄₁₆-13³⁄₁₆.

Gold

Gold fixed: am. 419.00 (an ounce); pm. 416.50 close. 416.00.
Krugerrand (per coin): $430-431 (£221.50-222.50).
Sovereigns (new): $101.50-102.50 (£52.25-52.75).

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
Acsis Jewellery 10p Ord (70a)	72
Asprey 25p Ord (a)	808
Brooke Bond Liebig 8¾% Db 87-92	£63
Cable and Wireless 50p Ord (168)	196-1
E. Worcester Wtr 10½% Rd Pf 1986 (†)	£103
Equipu 10p Ord	58
Exchequer 14% 1986 (z)	£39¾-¼
Exco International 10p Ord (140)	173
Feedback Group 10p Ord (90a)	104+4
Greenwich Cable 25p Ord (58a)	42+1
Humberside Electronic Controls 10p Ord (10½a)	15
Johnstone's Paints 10p Ord (83a)	75
Moray Firth Exp	100+1
Nimslo Int $0.20 Ord ($4.25a)	150+5
Saxon Oil 50p Ord (12½p paid)	75
Sheldon Jones 25p Ord (67a)	70
Television South 10p Ord NV (ak)	33
Do 14/20% 1988-95 Ln (ak)	£23
Tendering H'dred Wtr 10½% Rd Pf '86 (£100)	£103
V W 25p Ord (62a)	61

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renun	
BP (275 partly paid)	Dec. 18	326f-12
Northern Foods (126f)	Jan 15	138f
Raglan Prop Tst (7½t)	..	1½ prem-½
Strong and Fisher (50t)	..	½ prem-¼

Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend. † Issued by tender. ‡ Nil paid. a unlisted securities market. b. £10 paid. f fully paid. g £40 paid. h £50 paid. i £36 paid. j £25 paid. k Issued in units of sixteen shares and £5 nominal loan stock at £9 per unit



Business News

THE TIMES Friday December 4 1981



Sterling and mark fall despite interest cuts

By Frances Williams

Interest rate movements dominated currencies on the world's financial markets yesterday. The pound and the Deutschmark both lost ground after cautious cuts in rates, while the dollar made substantial gains on expectations that American rates may have bottomed for the time being.

The pound fell below $1.93 at one stage on news of the half point cut in bank base rates to 14½ per cent. It recovered to finish London trading down 1.80 cents on the day at $1.9350. The index measuring its wider international value lost 0.4 to stand at 91.4, reflecting slight weakness against Continental currencies.

In Europe, the Deutschmark and the Swiss Franc weakened after the German Federal Bank cut its special Lombard rate by ½ a point from 11 to 10½ per cent. This was swiftly followed by the Swiss National Bank which cuts its Lombard rate from 7½ to 7 per cent.

Herr Karl Otto Poehl, the federal bank's president, said the special Lombard cut had been confined to ½ per cent because of the risk of fuelling inflation and the need to maintain the improvement in the balance of payments current account.

The move surprised some sections of the currency market which had not expected any cut, in view of the Deutschmark's recent weakness and firming United States interest rates. It lost 1.32 pfennigs to the dollar, closing in London at $1=DM 2.2302.

Herr Poehl also announced yesterday that next year's target band for the domestic money supply would be 4 to 7 per cent, the same as in 1981 and hoped it would be possible to aim for the middle or upper half of the band.

Eurodollar deposit rates rose by about ½ percentage point on growing expectations that United States interest rates may not fall much further in the short term. Dealers point out that the United States money supply figures have shown increases for three successive weeks—which may discourage the Federal Reserve Board from fresh relaxation of its monetary stance.

The key Fed funds rate—the rate at which banks lend each other reserves in the money market—was trading yesterday at between 12¼ and 12½ per cent, more than a full percentage point above last week's lows. American banks are unlikely to cut their prime lending rates from the present split level of 15½ or 15¾ per cent to which they moved earlier this week without a further downward move in the cost of funds.

☐ The Stock Market appeared unimpressed with the latest ½ per cent cut in base rates to 14½ per cent and showed its disatisfaction by marking prices sharply lower (Michael Clark writes).

After being 11.8 down at one stage the *FT* Index of 30 leading shares eventually closed 11.1 lower at 519.9 amid persistent selling.

Many dealers said the cut had already been discounted as being too little, too late, and timed to sweeten the Chancellor's latest package of economic measures. Despite the Government's optimistic noises about a gradual return to growth the market remains far from convinced that this is actually the case.

So, with the current account due to end later today, investors decided now was the best time to take profits.

In addition, trading news from GEC, Plessey and BP fell short of expectations and with many investors already holding positions in all three groups, ahead of the figures, profit taking left all of them lower on the day.

Gilts too, were clearly disappointed by the ½ per cent fall and showed losses of up to 50p in places at the close in light trade.



Plessey and GEC show higher first-half profits

GEC, Britain's biggest electrical group, reported half-time profits almost a third higher at £247.8m (Paul Maidment writes). The increase was echoed by Plessey, the military and telecommunications group whose chairman Sir John Clark (pictured above) announced six-monthly profits of £51.3m. The results were better than analysts had predicted, but the share prices of both companies fell in a weaker stock market. GEC dropped 15p to 779p and Plessey fell by 10p to 331p. GEC is raising its half-time dividend by 21.4 per cent to 6.07p gross, but Plessey did not declare a dividend. Sir John said that Plessey had recently won orders worth £100m to add to contracts worth £1,200m covered in the figures to the end of September. The new orders include a £60m contract for avionics communications in the Middle East. Plessey has also won a study project for a new sonar system for the United States navy.

Burmah oil loses £3m corporation tax appeal

By Drew Johnston

Burmah Oil yesterday lost its legal battle over a £3m corporation tax assessment made in 1972. The House of Lords allowed an appeal of the Inland Revenue and overturned a Scottish Court of Session decision that the company was entitled to claim a capital loss arising from the liqidation of a subsidiary.

The unanimous judgment of the five Law Lords also confirmed an earlier decision of the House this year, in the case of W. T. Ramsey Limited versus Inland Revenue Commissioners, which one of the judges, Lord Scarman, said marked a significant change in the House's judicial role towards tax avoidance.

Burmah claimed a capital tax allowance of £160m as a result of a complex series of transactions revolving around the transfer of its shareholding in BP to one of its subsidiaries. The subsidiary later went into voluntary liquidation, giving rise to the tax loss claim.

This BP shareholding subsequently featured in another legal tussle with the Bank of England. Then Burmah sold its shares in BP to the Bank of England as part of a deal to save the company from liquidation in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis. Last July Burmah heard that it had finally lost its case that the Bank had acted unfairly in buying Burmah's 20 per cent holding in BP for less than the company claimed it was worth.

In the Revenue's case against Burmah, Lord Diplock said it seemed the only real asset involved in the complex round of bookkeeping transactions was the parent company's holding of BP shares.

This artificially led to a warning by Lord Scarman: "It is of the utmost importance that the business community and others including their advisers should appreciate that the Ramsay case marks a significant change in the approach adopted by this House in its judicial role towards tax avoidance schemes".

Burmah said yesterday that the decision would not result in any immediate cash outflow from its reserves. It said the capital loss would have been available for offset only against capital gains made by the company since 1971 and any gains that might arise in the future.

Royal Bank profits up £5.4m

By Peter Wilson-Smith
Banking Correspondent

The Royal Bank of Scotland yesterday reported improved annual profits and a 10 per cent increase in dividends.

Meanwhile, the Monopolies Commission is believed to be putting the final touches on its eagerly-awaited report on the two rival bids for Royal Bank from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Standard Chartered. The report has yet to reach Mr John Biffen, the Trade Secretary and a decision looks unlikely before Christmas.

Royal Bank's profits in the year to September 30 rose from £102.5m to £107.9m pretax and the year's dividend is 7.7p gross. The results were a surprise to the City which expected a fall in profits of between £12m to £15m, after the fall of nearly one-fifth to £42m at the half-year. Yesterday the shares closed 2p higher at 190p.

Williams and Glyn's Royal Bank's English subsidiary accounted for most of the profit rise with an increase from £51.9m to £56.1m before tax while the Scottish division was marginally ahead from £50.3m to £51.4m.

Advances grew, Royal Bank said, by 19 per cent but average base rates were lower and the switch from current to interest bearing deposits continued. Group staff was trimmed by about 200 as part of a cost saving programme.

Sir Michael Herries the group's chairman re-affirmed its support for a merger with Standard Chartered and said the subsequent bid from Hongkong Bank was not approved by the Bank of England and Royal Bank believed that over-

Financial Editor, page 17

Jim Slater set to make £1.2m profit

By Peter Wainwright

Mr Jim Slater once a self-confessed "minus millionaire," yesterday made a potential £1.2m profit through a bid for Laganvale Estate his quoted Belfast property company. The offer is from Sturla Holdings, a financial services group headed by Mr Bob Knight, a former general manager of Mercantile Credit, which rescued Sturla five years ago.

Sturla is bidding £4.5m in varying forms of share paper for Laganvale into which Mr Slater injected his privately-owned Strongmead company last April. At one time, Mr Round "Tiny" Rowland, of Lonrho, had an interest in Strongmead.

If Mr Slater holds on to his share stake he will end up with 11 per cent of the Sturla equity. But he will not be joining the board, Mr Knight said yesterday: "He is not interested in helping to run a financial services group. The question of Mr Slater joining the board did not even come up".

Sturla's offer has been backed by the Laganvale board and holders of 46 per cent of the Laganvale shares have undertaken irrevocably to accept. Half of the share issue for the deal is being underwritten by Rowe Rudd, headed by Mr Tony Rudd a former stockbroker.

Mr Slater, the financier who resigned from Slater Walker, the group he built up with Mr Peter Walker, before he became Minister of Agriculture, is now a writer of children's stories. The collapse of Slater Walker left him, in his own words, "a minus millionaire".

After Slater Walker came under the protective wing of the Bank of England, the financier failed in an attempt to appeal to the House of Lords against a High Court ruling that he was guilty of offences under the Companies Act involving £4m.

For every two shares in Laganvale, Sturla offers three of its own shares, 10p nominal of 10 per cent convertible redeemable preference shares and 12p nominal of 16 per cent loan stock dated 1983-85.

Half the new Sturla shares are being underwritten by Rowe Rudd at 13p for each Sturla share.

The last accounts were qualified by Stoy Hayward, the accountants, over certain loan repayments. The Laganvale deal is designed to join Sturla's potential earning power with Laganvale's assets.

Jim Slater: former "minus millionaire"

Sizewell B reactor cost £1,000m

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Construction costs of Britain's first pressurized water reactor, which is planned to be built at Sizewell in Suffolk, are likely to be about £1,000m.

The National Nuclear Corporation, the industrial consortium which is responsible for designing and building Britain's nuclear power stations, is due to produce an indicative cost estimate for the Sizewell B station shortly after approval for the design was given by the Central Electricity Generating Board in October.

Last night Mr Jim Stewart, a corporation board member and chairman of the British Nuclear Forum gave some indications of the likely cost in a lecture delivered in London.

He said that on the basis of prices prevailing in June this year, the cost of an American generic design of a single 1,100 megawatt PWR plant was $780m compared with an estimated cost for the present British design, if it were to be built in the United States of $940m.

In round figures the United Kingdom designed power plant alone, excluding site, fuel and other costs, would be about £600m which would be swollen by a further £250m in associated engineering costs.

"I believe we have a sound and safe design of plant, which is readily constructable and is backed by a great depth of experience", he said.

The Sizewell B project is to be the subject of a public inquiry next year. The target is to order one new nuclear power station a year over the next decade.

Germans in technology pact

From Peter Norman, Frankfurt, Dec 3

Three of West Germany's largest industrial concerns have agreed to cooperate in the rapidly growing field of telecommunications technology.

AEG-Telefunken, Robert Bosch and Mannesmann today announced a complex series of new cross holdings in existing telecommunications subsidiaries that are intended to give the three companies the capacity to offer internationally a full programme of products in information and communications technology.

The agreements will also inject a large amount of capital into the ailing AEG-Telefunken group which, under the agreements, will sacrifice control of what is generally regarded as one of the most promising of its subsidiaries.

The company's 41 per cent stake in Telefonbau und Normalzeit the communications concern will go into a holding company in which Bosch, with a stake of 75.5 per cent against AEG-Telefunken's 24.5 per cent, will have complete control.

It has already been arranged that the holding company should exercise an option held at present by AEG to buy 10 per cent of Telefonbau shares and so obtain control of the company by the beginning of 1983.

AEG will retain control of its existing telecommunications and cable division. This will be hived off to form a separate company in which AEG will hold 51 per cent, Bosch and Mannesmann 20 per cent each and the Allianz insurance group the remaining nine per cent.

AEG, Bosch and Mannesmann have agreed to form a planning company to strengthen their cooperation in the telecommunications sector.

Where Bosch pays for its gaining control of T and N is in the agreement reached to determine the future of AEG-Telefunken's loss making Olympia office equipment and typewriter division. AEG is writing off 49 per cent of its 100 per cent stake in Olympia's DM130m capital. A holding company, in which the Dresdner Bank, the Deutsche Bank and Westdeutsche Landesbank have indirect stakes, will then subscribe to new shares, bringing the level of capitalization back to DM130m.

The outline of this complex transaction played an important part in securing the agreement of AEG bankers for a write off of DM240m of group debt at the end of this year and an undertaking to provide the company with further financial support to the end of 1983.

Small-business loans scheme will be reviewed

By Derek Harris

The Government's guarantee scheme aimed at encouraging bank lending to small businesses will be reexamined by the Department of Industry in the New Year after unexpectedly high demand for loans.

This was indicated in London yesterday by Mr John MacGregor, under-secretary for industry with responsibility for small businesses, at a conference on starting up in business organized by the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation (ICFC).

Mr David Marlow, the corporation's general manager, said it was investing £100m a year in 1,000 businesses of which 400 were just starting up.

☐ Loans worth £52.6m have also been guaranteed since the scheme started at the beginning of June. Reports are circulating of about six companies, running into financial difficulties, but Mr MacGregor said that no cases had been reported.

He told the conference: "The scheme is bridging a gap. We shall need longer experience before other lessons come out. Early next year we shall assess our experience."

The loans ceiling was doubled to £100m in October because of the big response to the schemes. A decision whether to raise the ceiling further could face the Government before the middle of next year unless demand abates.

High bad debt ratio in the first month of such a scheme would not necessarily persist, as screening methods improved with experience. It seems unlikely that a judgment would be considered by the Government until the scheme has been operating for a reasonable period.

More than half the loans have been taken up by new businesses.

The role of small businesses in creating jobs and helping restructure the economy was emphasized by Mr MacGregor. The Department of Industry's small firms advisory service had dealt with double the number of inquiries in the first nine months of this year, he said.

Talks among ethnic business communities in Britain have been started by Mr MacGregor. Aid for small business were discussed yesterday



MacGregor and Marlow in London yesterday.

■ Stock Markets

FT Index 519.9 down 11.1
FT Gilts 64.05 down 0.25
FT All Share Index 309.03 down 3.94
Bargains 17,537

■ Sterling

$1.9350 down 180 points
Index 91.4 down 0.4

■ Dollar

Index 106.0 up 0.5
DM2.2302 up 13.2 points

■ Gold

$416.00 up $6.25

■ Money

3 month sterling 15⅛-14⅞
3 month Euro $ 13-12¾
6 month Euro $ 13⅛-13⅛

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Bracken Mines	9p to 129p
Causton Sir J	3p to 29p
Churchbury Est	10p to 675p
Elsburg Gold	7p to 137p
Kinross	32p to 633p
Middle Wits	20p to 650p
Pauls & Whites	8p to 184p
Routledge & K	12p to 140p
Rustenburg	8p to 234p
Scapa Grp	7p to 160p
UC Invest	13p to 640p

Falls

APV Hldgs	15p to 218p
BP	12p to 268p
Boustead	8p to 108p
Britannic	8p to 262p
GEC	12p to 779p
Glaxo	10p to 412p
Lasmo	13p to 459p
Nat W'minster	10p to 398p
Pilkington Bros	12p to 268p
Ranger Oil	20p to 445p
Smiths Ind	13p to 365p
Unilever	13p to 598p

Beer output falls 15 pc

Beer production at 3 million bulk barrels of 36 gallons each plunged 15.1 per cent in October compared with the same month last year, the Brewers' Society said yesterday. It means beer production was down 5.6 per cent in the first ten months of the year on annual comparison and fears are growing in the trade that by the year end production could be down 7 per cent or more overall.

Trade reports indicate that sales of beer are down by more than 6 per cent at present, the Society said. The October returns could reflect some of the effects of price increases of around 4p a pint put through by many brewers over the past two months, but the impact of price increases particularly in the south of England has yet to show up.

☐ A French news agency report said yesterday that President Mitterrand has told Algeria he is prepared to pay between $5.25 (£2.70) and $5.35 per million BTU for Algerian gas, a rise of $1. The price would raise the cost of the gas to more than the oil products it would replace and compares with the $4.70 at which a Soviet delegation is expected to offer Soviet gas to France.

☐ Three French shipyards employing 11,700 people are to merge under the country's rationalization plans. They are the France-Dunkirk yard in the North and the Seyne and Ciotat yards in the South.

☐ Contracts for equipment worth £27.2m were announced by the Coal Board yesterday. They go mainly to companies in Scotland, the North of England and the West Midlands.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Britain's new export—eels

Eighteen tanks are due at Hartobagy, Hungary, today four days after leaving Blue Circle's cement works at Eastgate, co Durham.

The £54,000 deal is the outcome of four years' experiments, and is the first time the company has sold to the Eastern block. The contents of the tanks are 400,000 eels.

There was doubt as to whether Hungarians like their eels in pies, jellied or with parsley sauce so it was decided that they should be shipped live—all 2½ tonnes of them.

The transporter is fitted with machinery to circulate and regenerate the water to keep the fish in good condition. They, of course, are seasoned travellers, having spent six years making their way from their birthplace in the Sargossa Sea to the English rivers where they were caught nine months ago.

The Weardale fish farm was set up in 1977 by Blue Circle as an experiment to utilize thousands of gallons of warm water coming daily from the cement works.

Young workers subsidy starts

The Young Workers Scheme, announced in July, comes into operation on Monday, when employers will be able to claim Government allowances of as much as £15 a week for each employee under 18 in his first year of full time employment.

An employer will be able to claim £15 for each young employee whose gross average earnings are under £40 a week, and £7.50 a week for each employee whose gross average earnings are between £40 and £45 a week.

☐ A total of 1,512 guarantees, worth £52.6m, have been issued under the Government's loan guarantee scheme up to the end of November, Mr John MacGregor, the Industry Minister, told a business start-up conference in London yesterday. New businesses accounted for 857 guarantees, worth £28.3m.

CBI steps up surcharge fight

The Confederation of British Industry is to step up its campaign to ease the employers' burden on National Insurance contributions after this week's mini budget. The CBI has said that although this is aimed at employees it will probably add an additional £200m to the employers' bill.

The organization expects employers' contributions to National Insurance during the next financial year to rise to £13,700m from this year's estimated £12,600m.

☐ Imperial Chemical Industries is to spend £5m on extensions at its Wilton, Teesside, plant to increase output of bottle polymer to 20,000 tonnes.

☐ Greycoat Estates, the property developers, and Norwich Union insurance group are to develop a £45m office building above Victoria Station in London. It is due to be completed in 1984.

BP profits fall £286m

British Petroleum made third-quarter net profits of £203m, against £209m last year. Net profits for the first nine months of this year fell £286m to £799m. Chemicals continued to lose heavily, although the rate was slightly down at £49m. Historic earnings per share for the nine months are down from 68.3p to 48.4p.

Financial Editor, page 17

☐ Mr Christopher Haskins, deputy chairman of Northern Foods, is to join the Avana board after the company's increase of its investment in Avana to 20.5 per cent. Dr John Randall, chairman of Avana, becomes a Northern Foods non-executive director.

☐ Export orders, worth more than £1m, and won in four days, were announced by Dale Electric, of Filey, Yorkshire, which makes generating sets. The orders, for Nigeria, Iraq and Yemen, lift the company's order book to more than £9m, and the group's to £28m.

Mobil plans new bid

Mobil is planning to bid again for Marathon Oil, but this time in conjunction with another oil company. Mobil hopes that a joint bid, details of which have yet to be announced, will circumvent anti-trust legislation.

The battle between US Steel and Mobil for Marathon looks more and more like being decided in the courtroom rather than on the stock exchange. Yesterday, a Cincinnati federal appeals court denied Mobil's request for a stay of a lower court order enjoining its bid. It was the second such rebuff.

US Steel, which bid $125 (£65) a share for 51 per cent of Marathon, America's 17th biggest oil company, is the Marathon board's preferred buyer. But Mobil has replied with a second bid of $126 a share, also for 51 per cent, which values Marathon at $6,500m. The eventual cost is likely to be higher, making it the biggest bid in history.

Reagan talks to steelmen

President Reagan is to urge American steel companies not to file suits alleging foreign steel makers—including British Steel—are dumping steel in the United States below cost, according to the Commerce Decording to a Commerce Department official in Washington.

Mr Sherman Unger, commerce general counsel, told a senate judiciary subcommittee hearing that President Reagan will discuss today the effect such action would have on trade matters. Mr Unger said there would also be a review of the steel trigger price mechanism.

On Wednesday, 16 speciality steel firms filed anti-dumping suits against seven nations, including Britain.

In Brussels, the EEC commission denied that there is a secret EEC offer to negotiate an orderly steel marketing arrangement with the United States.

GKN gives assurance on motor spares

By Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Mr Roy Roberts, GKN managing director is trying to dispel the increasing concern of motor manufacturers, the company's biggest customers that GKN intends to use its "muscle" to increase the competitiveness of its fast-grwoing replacement parts and accessory business.

GKN Autoparts, with a network of 150 wholesale outlets, is a direct competitor of the motor manufacturers' own extensive and profitable spares business which was launched only four years ago, already has an annual turnover of £60m and employs 1,900 people.

Speaking at the opening of a £1.5m Autoparts national distribution centre at Weedon near Northampton, Mr Roberts said: "We do not regard our distribution activities merely as an outlet for our manufactured products. Indeed they form, and will form, only a small proportion of the goods we distribute.

"Suppliers may therefore have confidence that we do not intend to move backwards up the chain and commence manufacture of items not currently in our portfolio. We are present in the market as distributors and traders and our management is aware that it has to make it work independently."

It is understood that GKN manufactured parts will be restricted to 10 per cent of its range of spares and accessories.

Although Mr Roberts' statement is aimed obstensibly at companies supplying Autoparts, it will help to allay the fears of manufacturers that Britain's biggest engineering group would undercut their prices by producing a range of parts expressly for the £2,700m a year market.

By cutting out the middleman and selling direct from the factory, they feared that GKN would make big inroads into the motor trade's most profitable sector.

GKN's decision to reduce its dependants on the supply of original equipment to Britain's shrinking motor industry has also seen it pushing into overseas markets.

Mr Roberts disclosed that since it acquired Parts Industries Corporation in the United Statees, it had tripled its parts turnover.

More textiles jobs at risk, union says

By Rupert Morris

Brussels and Geneva will become the graveyards of the British clothing industry if the Government fails to take a stronger line in negotiations on renewal of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement, Mr Alec Smith, general secretary of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers. said yesterday.

He told members of the *Clothing Institute in Glasgow* that concessions by the Government on the issues of base levels, rates of growth and import quotas had put the future of the clothing industry into doubt as never before.

"Ministers, in all honesty, cannot be said to have sold the pass because they have *simply given it away*," he said.

The industry had thought that ministers were aware of its concerns, and were prepared to stand firm against the threat of cheap clothing imports. The Govermment's concessions had destroyed the possibility of giving special treatment to the developing countries.

Mr Peter Rees, the Minister for Trade, had been given the wrong brief, and if the damage were not repaired, it would put many more out of work.

Textile and clothing employers have already made similar complaints, and Mr Ian MacArthur, director of the British Textile Confederation, said that if the Government failed to secure EEC agreement on 1980 quotas instead of 1982, at least 30,000 jobs would be immediately at risk.

Since January last year 150,000 textile and clothing jobs have been lost. A further 30,000 jobs will go if the Government fails to achieve a tough new agreement at next week's meeting of the EEC Council of Mmisters in Brussels.

Recession and the adverse impact on demand has meant that most MFA quotas on low cost imports have not been fully used.

It is therefore crucial that future import access in the third agreement is related to the level of actual imports in 1980, the last year for which figures are available, rather than 1982 quota levels, set in the more prosperous mid-1970s as stated by the British Government.

Textile and *clothing industrialists* and trade unions are alarmed that the Government has failed to respond to the demands of the industry which employs 600,000 people, more than those employed in the motor industry or the coal mining and steel

The issue is whether the level of imports of textiles and clothing allowed from low wage countries such as Hongkong and South Korea should be reduced to take account of the United Kingdom's recession or whether 30,000 British workers should lose their jobs because of rising imports.

□ Meanwhile there has been no progress in talks to renew the arrangement which *expires in December 31*, although progress on several secondary aspects has been made.

Japan has joined textile exporting developing countries in voicing its opposition to the EEC's proposed "surge mechanism", which would allow for tighter restraints to prevent sharp increases in textile and apparel imports.

It also criticized the community's plan to allow part of some import quotas to be reserved for outwardly processed goods, or clothing made in an exporting country with raw materials bought from the ultimate importer.

The community wants the new MFA to be more restrictive so that market disruption by imports can be prevented.

The other key participant in the Geneva talks, the United States, is satisfied with the terms



Ron Dearing and Kenneth Baker start the Mount Pleasant computer.

Post Office launches electronic mailing

By Our Technology Correspondent

The Post Office has launched what it claims is the world's first mass electronic mailing service.

Mr Ron Dearing, Post Office chairman, and Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Information Technology, inaugurated "Electronic Post" yesterday by switching on a computer at the Mount Pleasant sorting office in London. It started the transmission of several thousand promotional letters from *Reader's Digest*, the first customer, to homes in the Manchester area.

The service is intended for large companies which already use computers to write and address large numbers of letters. They can now give the Post Office their magnetic tapes containing the message to be transmitted (with simple graphics, letterhead and signature) and a full address list.

The Post Office computer then transmits the data via British Telecom to the receiving Electronic Post centre, where the letters are laser-printed, addressed and sorted for delivery through the normal postal system.

Electronic Post is a hybrid between new information technology and traditional hand-delivered mail service. It is quite different from recently introduced "electronic mail" systems, such as Prestel's Mailbox, which use viewdata networks to transmit a message from the screen of one individual to another.

The Post Office will run Electronic Post for an 18-month trial period between the London and Manchester areas (which together cover one third of the 22 million addresses in Britain). If customer response is good,it will be extended later to cover the whole country.

Unexpected increase in Soviet trade with Finland

By Michael Frenchman

Finland will rece ive an unexpected boost to its economy with the 1982 trade agreement with the Soviet Union, which allows for a 20 per cent increase in trade between the two countries.

The protocol spelling out details of the 31,000 million Finn Mark (£3,700m) deal was signed in Helsinki this week.

About half the 104 velssels on order with Finnish shipyards are for the Soviet Union. These orders, worth FMk13,000m, are for specialized oil exploration and supply ships for the Artic and Siberia.

Finland is also building steel, paper and woodworking projects inside the Soviet Union. Yesterday's agreements will see the Finns build 25 villages and pumping stations along the new Siberian natural gas pipeline.

Finland has a trade agreement with the Soviet Union which was recently extended to 1995 — one of the longest agreements which the Russians have made with a non-communist country. Details are settled annually. The surprising fact in the 1982 agreememt is that the terms were expected to be reduced because of the FMk1,700m imbalance of trade in Finland's favour.

Under the latest trade deal, exports to he Soviet Union will rise from FMk14,000m for next year instead of being cut.

Technology

How two bombs can immobilize NATO

By Clive Cookson

By exploding just two powerful hydrogen bombs above the atmosphere — one over Western Europe and the other over North America — the Soviet Union could immobilize almost every NATO country without directly killing or injuring anyone or destroying any property by blast or heat.

The Russians would be making use of a phenomenon known as electromagnetic (EMP). Western military planners are becoming increasingly alarmed by the EMP threat, as they call it. And they are beginning to speak in public about a danger that they have worried about for years in the secrecy of their research establishments.

The Institution of Electrical Engineers had a discussion on EMP in London recently to bring the subject into open scientific discussion. Speakers from the Ministry of Defence and from the defence industry set out to persuade their professional colleagues that protection against EMP should be built into new electronic systems.

EMP is a short-lived, but extremely - intense, electromagnetic field, generated by a complex physical process as gamma radiation from a nuclear explosion ionizes the atmosphere.

If the bomb explodes close to the ground or in the lower atmosphere, EMP is soon absorbed by the earth and its effects are lost in the general destruction caused by blast, heat and radiation.

But if gamma rays from an explosion in space hit the upper atmosphere, the pulse can propagate and spread out over a very wide area. A large H-bomb detonated 100 kilometres above Western Europe would blanket the continent with electromagnetic energy at a rate of about one joule per square metre. Less than one-thousandth of this energy could damage some modern electronic circuits.

That is not enough to cause physical destruction or personal injury, but it would induce large surges of current in exposed electrical conductors, particularly cables and antennae. Experts believe that the entire electricity distribution system of Western Europe would be knocked out.

As Mr Wes Davidson, of Marconi Space and Defence Systems, told the Institution's members: "when one remembers that three simultaneous faults on the United Kingdom system this summer were responsible for disrupting supplies to a very large area of southern England, one is tempted to speculate that an exo-atmospheric explosion would lead to unprecedented chaos.

"The telephone network and radio broadcasting would also be disrupted over the same area. All this could be achieved without blast or radiation effects at ground level."

One of the unfortunate by-products of the semi-conductor revolution is to make us increasingly vulnerable to the EMP threat. For silicon chips and electronic circuits are damaged by electromagnetic fields millions of times smaller than old-fashioned vacuum tubes (valves) and electromechanical devices can withstand.

There is no experimental evidence about the large scale effects of EMP, because the atmospheric test ban treaty came into force just as scientists were becoming aware of the threat.

However, a hint came in July 1962, when the United States exploded an H-bomb at *high altitude over an unpopulated* area of the Pacific Ocean — 1,400 kilometres away in Hawaii, street lights and power lines failed

Although modern electronic systems have never been exposed to the real thing, Britain's Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston and the Air Force Weapons Laboratory in the United States have spent millions of pounds trying to imitate EMP.

With the help of the simulators, the Ministry of Defence and its industrial contractors are learning to "harden" military systems against EMP. The exact techniques are secret, but the broad strategy was outlined at the institution's seminar by Dr Philip Miller, of Marconi.

The civilian agencies liable to be knocked out by EMP — most notably the Central Electricity Generating Board and British Telecom — are no more forthcoming than the military about their precautions.

In the short term, the telephone network is becoming increasingly vulnerable as electromechanical exchanges are gradually superseded by the electronic TEX4A and System X.

But, in the long run, salvation lies in the replacement of copper telephone cables by optical fibres, which are not affected by EMP.

IN BRIEF

Japan to cut tariff rates next year

□ Japan's average import tariff rate next year is to fall from 5.1 to 4.1 per cent under the plan by Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Prime Minister to ease friction with its main trading Partners.

Mr Tamio Amau, director-general of the ministry's information bureau, said that tariff cuts could affect about 2,000 items next year, ahead of schedulled reductions in 1983 and 1984.

The items would include computers, chocolate and biscuits, which are high on the list of tariff cuts sought by the United States and the European economic Community. Duties would also be reduced on whisky, he said.

$36m Westland deal

□ The first export order for the new Westland 30 civil helicopter, with the conversion of options, is worth $36m (about £18.5m). The contract, placed by Airspur, of Los Angeles, California, is for six of the helicopters, with delivery of the first three due in the last quarter of 1982, the second three to follow a year later. All are to be powered by Rolls-Royce Gem engines. This agreement covers a further 15 on option for delivery in the mid-eighties as traffic grows.

EEC steel inquiry

□ EEC Commission began legal proceedings against *France yesterday over state* aid to its steel industry. The commission wants more information on emergency loans of nearly F2,300m (about £213m) given by the government to each of two steel companies, Sacinor and Usinor.

Tea auction

□ Singapore began a challenge to London's domination of the tea trade today by staging the first international tea auction ever held outside the British capital.

£52m carrier order

□ Hyundai, of Korea, has received a $100m (about £52m order for four 38,000 d.w.t. bulk carriers from South India Shipping.

Japan car exports

□ A senior Japanese Government official has told the United States that Japan is opposed to any reduction in its 1982 car exports below the *1.68 million units set for this* year.

Bank tills ring for franchises

By Derek Harris

Franchises, from fast food outlets to plumbing services, are receiving more backing from the clearing banks.

National Westminster and Barclays, two of the big five, have now appointed staff to deal solely with the service.

The banks are prepared to to advance more than £10m to finance the setting up of new franchise units, under the scrutiny of a central approved controller who will act for the banks an the British Franchise Association.

Mr Duncan Whitfield, head of the Hometune car tuning service, said at the association's annual meeting *in* London yesterday that the move by banks would accelerate the growth of franchises.

There are nearly 50 members of the Association, with 4,400 outlets, and their sales last year increased by nearly 15 per cent to £327.5m. A further increase of about 12 per cent is forecast for this year.

The banks could have been influenced by high profits among franchised businesses.

Much may also depend on the size of the operation because some hamburger franchises can cost a newcomer £300,000 although the average initial investment on a franchise is just £18,500 among the association's members, *many of whose* businesses are comparatively small.

Spud-U-Like, the British School of Motoring subsidiary with 11 units selling baked potatoes says that some banks have offered as much as two thirds of the £30,000 capital needed by a franchisee for setting up one of its retail outlets.

Franchises now employ 20,000 people — a 10 per cent increase in the past year — but a further 25 per cent rise is forecast for next year.

First fall in exports for Scotland

By Our Correspondent

The value of Scottish manufactured exports has gone up £500m in the past three years but because of inflation this represents a decline of 8.6 per cent.

It was the first fall since 1960 when the Scottish Council (Development and Industry) began keeping a check on exports.

A survey of the three years 1978 to 1980, published yesterday, shows that exports increased in value by 17 per cent, but the export price inflation of 28 per cent produced the 8.6 per cent decline, according to Mr Craig Campbell, the council's research director.

Scotland, however, is still more export-oriented than British industry as a whole.

The most valuable exports remain food, drink and tobacco, dominated by whisky, which accounts for 20 per cent of all Scottish manufactured exports. Whisky exports were worth £661m in 1978, £707m in 1979 and £747m in 1980.

After allowing for export price inflation, the survey reports that the only groups to show real growth were instrument and electrical engineering (up 47 per cent in value) and shipbuilding and marine enginerring (up 60 per cent). Chemicals and petroleum products showed a decrease of 2 per cent and metal manufacture and metals a decrease of 9 per cent.

The survey illustrates the growing importance of the European Economic Community as a Scottish market. The community now receives more than 40 per cent of Scottish exports and nearly 45 per cent if whisky is excluded. North America now gets only 12.4 per cent and only 8.8 per cent without whisky. When Britain joined the community in 1973 both attracted 23 per cent.

Plea for housing land

By Baron Phillips

Britain's housebuilding industry will have to spend far more of its resources on the provision of adequate services for new housing schemes, according to a study of housing land availability published yesterday by the Standing Conference on London and the South East and the House Builders Federation.

The need is the result of the cuts in local authority spending, at a time when house prices and builders' margins are already under tremendous pressure.

The study calls for more cooperation between public and private sectors in London and so encourage larger building programmes. One of the main problems is the release of land to the private sector from local authority ownership.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Interest rates come down a notch

With the Chancellor's statement out of the way the clearing banks duly did their stuff yesterday and clipped half a point off their base rates. No sooner had they done so, however, than the Bank of England was on the scene to provide a reminder that half a point was enough for the time being. At least that was how the market read things. Help available to relieve an officially projected shortage of some £150m was relatively scant; and the short shrift seemed to be given to what may have been some fairly cheeky rates at which the discount houses offered the Old Lady bills at midday.

The authorities' attitude is in many ways understandable. We live in a very volatile world — United States rates, for instance, have turned rather firmer this week — while the optimum background for funding must be a steady rather than headlong decline in interest rates. Even so, real interest rates remain high for a beleaguered United Kingdom industry and the authorities should not allow funding considerations to weigh too heavily among their priorities. They do, after all, like to think, and with some justification, that they have become more adept in their funding this year.

Royal Bank of Scotland

Higher bids, please

With decision day over its future looming ever closer, Royal Bank of Scotland has sprung quite a surprise with a set of full year figures which have left the City scratching its collective head in amazement. In the first half pretax profits fell by nearly one fifth to £42m and the combination of falling interest rates, pressure on margins and the continuing switch away from current to interest bearing accounts suggested a none too rosy second half.

In the event, the second half has been little short of remarkable producing £66m profit, leaving the full year up by 5 per cent to £108m and a good £20m better than most people expected. There are a number of explanations given for this. Bad debt provisions have fallen sharply from £8.9m in the first half to £4.5m in the second, the squeeze on costs has continued, volume appears to have held up better than expected, and the impact of falling interest rates has been mitigated. Although average base rates during the year were 13.3 per cent compared with 16.4 per cent the year before, the spread between base and deposit widened from 2.1 per cent to 2.7 per cent and net interest margins in the second half were a ½ point higher than in the first.

Even so, it is still hard to account fully for the strength of the second half, particularly since international profits were down over the year and the domestic side seems to have produced all the surprises in the second half. The irony is that by turning up such good figures Royal Bank is playing into the hands of Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

If the Monopolies Commission gives the all clear for both bidders, Royal's preferred partner looks certain to lose out in a slugging match with Hongkong and Shanghai. Royal's asset value is now 260p a share which suggests that the successful suitor may have to pay about £100m more than the £485m which the two bids are currently worth, and Standard Chartered's balance sheet is unlikely to be able to cope with that.

GEC

Riding the recession

The imperious passage of Britain's largest electrical group through the troubled waters of recession continues barely ruffled. But so high are the market's expectations these days that even a 30 per cent increase in profits to £247.8m did nothing for the shares, down 15p to 779p last night on what admittedly was a poor day for equities. It seems an uncharitable reaction, even after stripping out the benefits of currency conversions and GEC's "cash mountain", now even larger than expected at £801m. Net interest received was £26.5m, little changed from last year's underlying figure, but affected by a £7m loss on gilts against a £4m gain last year.

Electronics and telecommunications were the backbone of the group's first half increase in profits, contributing 34.5 per cent against 29 per cent a year earlier with long term orders helping the group move relatively smoothly through the recession. Canadian Marconi and Alco diesels in the United States were other strong spots. The Americas raised their profits contribution from £10.6m to £17.1m. Order books are 25 per cent higher than a year ago and are now in excess of £5,000m. Power engineering forms an important part of that and, significantly, 80 per cent of those orders are overseas, where margins can be sustained.

Plessey

Improving productivity

A jump of a third in Plessey's pretax profits at the half way stage to £51.3m was at the higher end of market expectations. A £1m net surplus on interest received, as against £2.8m paid for the corresponding period last year, helped, but serves more to underline the group's strong balance sheet. The benefits of currency conversions at higher dollar rates — American and Australian — have also given a little polish to the figures.

None the less, a jump in profits at the trading level from £50.8m to £60m is a solid enough performance. Telecommunications, aerospace and engineering have been the strong areas. The slimming down of the workforce over the past year has been followed by increased productivity as is reflected, albeit crudely, in the increase in sales per employee from £16,076 to £20,353.

Order books are healthy at about £1,200m. Defence sales overseas are growing, offsetting the present limitations of the home market. A study for a new sonar system for the United States Navy is encouraging both in its production profits potential and in that it was won against strong American competition. Likewise, its civilian telecommunications range is being upgraded and taken agressively into international markets.

BP

Problems remain

British Petroleum is still struggling against the elements, and progress seems a little slower than might have been expected in the middle of the year. Third quarter net income was £203m against £209m last year, bringing the nine months figures to £799m, well below the £1,085m at the same time in 1980. On a current cost basis, moreover, the figures are terrible: a recovery to £42m profits in the third quarter has recouped sufficient of the earlier disasters to produce £19m for the nine months. But this time last year current cost profits were £467m.

Nevertheless, BP is making progress. Chemicals losses are still heavy at £49m outside North America, making a running loss for the year to date of £110m. The outcome for 1981 could be a loss of £150m from chemicals. BP also had to accept a £15m loss from its share of Kennecott. But elsewhere in mining and in oil product sales margins are slightly higher and Sohio continues to be a life-saver.

The company' argument is that after allowing for currency gains and cost of sales adjustment — effectively replacement of stocks — income is distinctly better, rising from £110m and £74m in the first and second quarters respectively to £257m in the third. It also points out that more favourable oil prices have partially been offset by the strength of the dollar which in August meant the effective crude price was $10 a barrel higher than at the beginning of the year.

Closures will help to stem chemical losses, but oil trading remains the core of the group and is as vulnerable as ever to price and currency fluctuations. BP may top £1,000m this year, compared with a 1980 net income of £1,400m. The collapse in stock profits from $210m to £55m in the last two quarters show how unpredictable conditions are, however. BP is not out of the wood yet.

David Blake

Is the price of Howe's strategy too high?

Like it or loathe it, you have to admit the extraordinary staying power of the Government's medium-term financial strategy.

It has been buffeted by economic circumstances beyond its control and by its own internal contradictions. Political pressures by government "wets" are constantly applied, yet at the end of a week in which the Chancellor has announced his autumn package of economic measures, the MTFS, as its friends like to call it, remains firmly on course.

The Government's economic strategy since the early part of 1980 has been very much a "top-down" strategy. It starts with a committment to controlling the total amount of money in the economy. Then it asks how the public sector can afford to borrow consistent with this growth in total money. Then, and only then, it asks how much spending should be allowed as one side of the Government's balance sheet.

It is, therefore, foolish at the best of times to look at one half of the equation and try to say that the Chancellor has switched to a new non-monetarist strategy. Even on the most lavish interpretation, the Chancellor has done better at cutting back spending this year than he did last year. And we all know the terrible retribution which he wreaked on all of us in his Budget for that.

So we ought to be very careful in assuming that increases in spending are the same as a relaxation of the economic strategy.

But are there, in any case, signs of a real relaxation in spending? In cash terms, it is true, the level for 1982-3 is up not merely from this year but also from the level which would have been expected by revaluing the last White Paper in line with the Governmen's pay and price assumptions. Look more closely at that statement and two weaknesses emerge.

The first is that the last set of spending plans was always unattainable in just those areas where the "extra" spending has been allowed.

The Government's spending plans have involved a steady inching towards reality after a first flush of enthusiasm in which it set itself unrealistec targets. The "increases" for nationalized industries are simply an upward revision of the spring figures which were, in turn, an update of the 1980 figures; we still face a big squeeze on nationalized industry investment.

That leads to the second problem for the "wet" interpretation of the spending decisions.

The apparent £5,000m increase in spending comes by comparing the actual cash figure expected with the figure produced by producing the Treasury's pay and price assumptions. But these assumptions were in turn based on an inflation forecast which has now been discredited. It is no wonder that government ministers are so keen to avoid being asked whether the volume of public spending will rise next year or not. In practice, it will be roughly static.

The implication of all this for borrowing is that even if the Government obtains only a very small amount, such as £500m, from asset sales next year, its actual borrowing level will be only £8,000m and its "underlying level" of borrowing (that is, without counting the £1,000m of revenue left over from this year) is still only £9.000m. this is, as the Chancellor rightly said, wholly consistent with his medium-term strategy.

What about the economic consequences which that strategy was designed to bring about? Here the Chancellor's case looks distinctly less impressive. Next year was designed to be the time when the strategy started paying off.

When the strategy was drawn up, it was assumed that the economy would grow by 1 per cent a year between 1980 and 1983 "the economy should be capable of growing faster than this," the Government said. By spring this year 1 per cent growth was no longer "deliberately cautious" as an estimate, as had been claimed in the spring of 1980. We were down to ½ a per cent a year.

This was for the years 1980-83. So far we have had a minus 2 per cent in 1980, minus 2 per cent in 1981 and we are forecast plus 1 per cent in 1981. The net balance so far under the policy is minus 3 per cent.

The same pattern of slippage is now beginning to emerge on the inflation front. Inflation-fighting is what the policy is meant to be all about. Yet who now believes that the 6 per cent inflation figure for 1983-84, which clearly was the Covernment's target, is attainable.

If the Chancellor is right about the economy, we face the following prospect: the economy growing by only 1 per cent a year, with inflation in double figures and unemployment, in crude terms, over three million.

It is not good enough and as the Chancellor gets ready to draw up his budget his colleagues ought to draw him to one side and, ever so gently, point out the fact.

As the debt rescheduling deal nears collapse Richard Davy examines the economy

Poland's legacy of poor planning

Many people think that strikes are the main cause of Poland's economic crisis. They are wrong. According to the Polish Government, strikes have cost the country 10,500,000 man hours this year. Since the labour force in the state sector is 12.71 million (most of Polish agriculture is in private hands): this amounts to less than an hour per man.

Of course, strikes in certain key industries have effects out of proportion to the number of hours lost, so there has been damage, but other factors have been more important.

First there is the legacy of the 1970s, when the country was rushed headlong into badly planned industrialization without enough expenditure on infrastructure, especially energy, and without structural reforms of the planning system that would have created the incentive for more efficient use of resources.

Agriculture was neglected, and the gap between industrial potential and available supplies of energy and raw materials widened visibly after 1977, though it was partly plugged by imports paid for with hard currency, which helped to obscure the problem.

At the same time some mines were being overworked, to the detriment of safety standards and maintenance, while statistics were being distorted by the inclusion of extranwous matter in production reports. So trouble was brewing anyway, aided by rising oil prices and declining demand in Western markets. Payment for the mistakes of the 1970s was falling due.

Then came a particularly bad harvest in 1980, largely because of bad weather, which reduced the potato crop by 40 per cent, the sugar crop by 33 per cent, and meant that more livestock than usual was slaughtered, so that there was less in 1981 — pigs were down by 13 per cent, for instance.

When the political upheavals arrived in August last year they tipped a bad situation into crisis. They had a particularly bad effect on the mining industries because of the free Saturdays introduced under pressure from Solidarity. Production of a range of raw materials



Strikers at the gates of a glass works in Sandomierz: stoppages more apparent than damaging.

has dropped by between 12 and 27 per cent. Voluntary work for extra pay is drawing some coal miners back and there are signs of an upturn, but when there are so few goods to buy the incentive to work weekends is less. Yet unless coal production increases the rest of industry will run too slowly to produce the goods to provide the miners with incentives. This is one of the vicious circles in which Poland is now trapped.

Another is created by the almost total cessation of Western lending. This is understandable when Poland's debt to the West is more than $27,000m (£13,775m) and her exports earnings are too low to service the debt, let alone repay it.

A result of this is that many factories are without vital components, spares and materials which can be had only for hard currency. Workers turn up eager to work but the factories stands idle. The figures then show a sharp drop in production but this is caused neither by strikes nor by unwillingness to work.

Many factories have been enterprising enough to set up direct links with suppliers and customers when normal channels have broken down. Yet the broad effect is to reduce Poland's earning power further. Some pump-priming is needed, and Polish economists are trying to find ways of getting direct financing from the West for individual enterprises.

There are two other results of the political crisis. One is the paralysis of the central and local administration. Some officials no longer dare take decisions; others are too disgruntled to care, since they know that if the reforms go through there will be a huge loss of administrative jobs.

The other disastrous effect of the political crisis has been the rapid rise in wages. In the first three quarters of this year pay in the state sector rose by 27.9 per cent while industrial production dropped 13 per cent, exports 15.4 per cent and imports 10 per cent.

At the same time supplies to the consumer market are said to have increased by only 2 per cent, though even that must be doubted by anyone observing the empty shops.

In this situation money has come to mean very little, which has had a particularly bad effect on agricultural supplies. Farmers prefer a live pig to useless cash, so they do not take the pig to market. Instead they keep it alive, barter it locally, or sell it privately, though this practice is supposed to have been curbed since October. The result is a disastrous slump in supplies to the towns, even when there is enough in the countryside.

It will be difficult to do much about this until money starts to mean something again, but this requires not only more industrial production but also a reform of the crazy price structure. For instance, the consumer can buy a litre of milk for about a fifth of the price paid by the state to the farmer. but tampering with prices is politically dangerous.

Solidarity's general policy (though there have been some exceptions) is to say that it will not support price increases except in the context of wider economic reforms, but though these are supposed to come into effect on January 1 they are still embroiled in disagreements.

Membership of the International Monetary Fund should help if it means that the government can introduce an austerity programme without being blamed for it. Food aid will help if it is sufficient to make the situation less explosive, and it can reduce working time lost through queuing. Selective hard currency aid to specific industries could also have a multiplier effect

But one Western economist was recently heard to mutter in private that what Polnad really needs is Stalinist forced labour in the mines (which could solve the debt problem almost overnight) combined with a free market in the rest of the economy.

Business Diary: Williams and the nuclear safety catch

The Paris-based Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA), is about to choose a new head. Its 60-year-old director general, Ian Williams, is due to retire after 15 years with the agency, four of them at the top. Williams joined this offshoot of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1966 when it was still a European body concentrating on nuclear research and development problems.

A former director of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's Health and Safety Division, Williams has steered the NEA into nuclear safety and radioactive waste management, and broadened its membership to include non-European nations such as Japan, Canada, Australia and the United States.

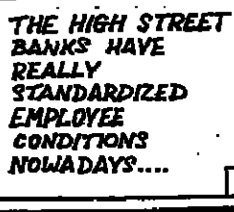


NEA's Ian Williams

His most difficult moment was just after the first oil crisis when another, more "political" offshoot of the OECD, the International Energy Agency (IEA), threatened to take over some of the NEA's responsibilities. Williams succeeded in maintaining a certain independance for the NEA and the importance of the 85-strong NEA has grown steadily as nuclear safety has become an international issue.

A successor has yet to be announced, although those wonderful people who gave you Three Mile Island, the Americans, are reported to be keen to win the post. After the problems it is encountering with the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United States apparently feels the Paris body may prove a more useful vehicle for international cooperation in the nuclear field.

A United States agency responsible for nuclear technology transfer and non-proliferation, the IAEA is increasingly controlled by the Third World, and Western countries barely succeeded in getting appointed a Swede, Hans Blix as secretary general instead of a Third World candidate.




R. Young

Some readers have been puzzled, and others downright annoyed, by full page colour advertisements which Sony UK placed in *The Times* urging that we buy our television sets from its authorizeddealers even though they may cost £80 more than those offered elsewhere.

The Sony advertisement explains that unauthorized dealers are selling sets at £209.95 which look the same as those authorized dealers sell at £289.95. The difference is that the "bargain" sets were originally designed for use on the Continent, "sneaked" into this country, "amateurishly converted", and might not work properly when installed.

Why, readers have been demanding to know, should sets which have to be transported from the Continent and adapted, however amateurishly, be available at so much less than the usual Sony dealers' price? Was it another case (like the notorious cars) of the British paying through the nose for something foreigners get cheap?

A Sony spokesman hastily explained: "The price difference we showed was perhaps an extreme one. We wanted to emphasize that a set bought from an unauthorized dealer may not be a bargain however cheap it appears.

"The more usual price difference is only £20 or £30, and the company's policy is to have a uniform pricing throughout Europe. Authorized dealers have to offer demonstration facilities, aftersalesservice, and to honour our guarantee, so to that extent they can be undercut by people who are simply selling boxes.

"But what appears to account for most of the difference is that opportunists have been taking advantage of shifts in currency exchange rates. It has become a very considerable problem for us, especially in London."

Toilet role

You may remember that a recent book suggested that one way to increase productivity at work was to take the locks off the toilet and so encourage people to spend less time in there.

Behind Closed Doors, a gallup survey commissioned by Crown Paints whose results are published yesterday appears to throw that device into question, even though it concerns toilet habits at home rather than at work.

The survey found that 43 per cent of adults never lock the door anyway, and perhaps even more surprising, women are less likely to lock the door than are men.

One popular prejudice the survey does appear to confirm is that women spend longer in that part of the building, 17 per cent of women spending more than half-an-hour there, compared with one in ten men.

Good timing?

Togetherness was in the air yesterday when Anthony Good and Philip Stephens gave details of the coming to market of the United Kingdom's first quoted public relations consultancy, Good Relations.

Good is chairman of GR and Stephens a partner in Laurie, Milbanke, the stockbrokers placing 28.5 per cent of GR's enlarged capital.

But for some time the stockbrokers has been a client of GR, as GR is now a client of the stockbrokers. Laurie's said Stephens put their business GR's way after looking at six other pitches. Likewise, said Good of the placing.

Ross Davies

Agriculture boosts Pauls & Whites

By Paul Maidment

A significant improvement by the agricultural division of Pauls & Whites has helped the maltster and manufacturer of flavours and animal feeds to increase profits by 55 per cent at the halfway stage.

Pretax profits for the six months to September 30 rose to £4.6m, against £3m for the corresponding period last year. Sales rose by 17.2 per cent to £131m.

Group trading profit was 37.4 per cent higher at £5.5m. Interest charges were down from £1.3m to £1.1m, but Mr John Clayton, the managing director, says that finance charges for the full year are likely to be higher than last year because the present high level of interest rates coincides with peak seasonal borrowings.

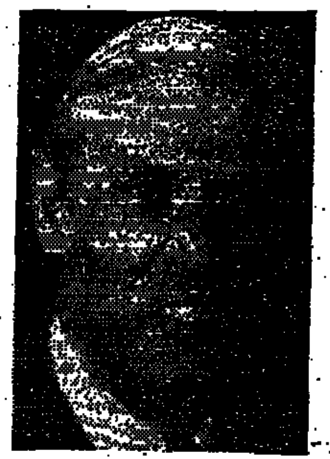
Earnings per share rose from 7.61p to 12.01p. The group is raising its half-time dividends by 28.6 per cent to 3.214p gross.

The improvement in the agricultural side was helped by an upturn in the market for the group's pig production. Export margins were improved by favourable EEC agricultural financing provisions.

Mr Clayton said that the group's malting business benefited from reduced losses in West Germany. Exports increased and this helped to offset the continued reduction in demand from brewers and distillers in the United Kingdom.

The fall in beer consumption also led to lower demand for hop extracts, but sales of flavours to the food and beverage industries continued to grow, reflecting the impact of the group's revamped sales and marketing strategy.

In Nigeria, the group's main export market, its animal feed mill ran at full capacity, but attributable profits were reduced by exchange rate movements. Mr Clayton is looking to expand export markets elsewhere, particularly in Asia.



Mr Michael Falcon, chairman of Pauls & Whites.

Morgan Crucible falls to £5.3m after nine months

By Our Financial Staff

Morgan Crucible is still finding the United Kingdom a tough market for its specialized carbons and refractory products but is increasingly supported by its overseas companies and direct exports.

Pretax profits fell to £5.3m in the nine months to September from £8.9m last time on sales that rose by a mere 3 per cent to £97.7m. Nevertheless, this reflects a sharp improvement in the third quarter of trading since half-yearly figures to June showed a slump in pretax profits to £2.58m from £6.5m in the previous period. The boost came from better trading overseas and exceeds profits in the same period last time—the first time since the first quarter of 1980.

Results from Hydrotex, the American industrial lubricants group that Morgan bought in July for £19m, are included with profits of £200,000 on sales of £900,000. These are covered in the Acorn division which show overall increased profits to £1.4m against £1.1m but are not evident in the pretax figures due to a cover for finance charges.

At the trading level profits are down to £7.8m from £11m and are further knocked by higher interest charges at £2.8m against £2.3m. Morgan's purchase of Hydrotex was quickly followed by a call for £10m of rights issue money to finance the deal and raised its medium-term loans by £14.7m. Hydrotex is forecast to make annual pretax profits of £3m.

Mr Ian Weston Smith, chairman, says direct exports and sales by overseas subsidiaries now account for 66 per cent of total sales compared with 59 per cent in the same period a year ago.

Trading margins have been under further pressure, slipping to 8.1 per cent against 11.7 per cent in the comparative period. The average last year was 10.3 per cent.

Burnett & Hallamshire up 42pc

The recession has proved only a minor irritation to Burnett & Hallamshire Holdings, the largest open-cast mining group in Britain with growing oil and property interests.

In the six months to September it has produced a rise in pretax profits of 42 per cent to £5.7m. Turnover from the Sheffield-based group jumped by 53 per cent to £60m. After slightly lower tax charges of £1.9m and an extraordinary item of £174,000, attributable profits were £3.5m against £1.9m. This gave earnings per share of 34.6p compared with 22.26p.

Shareholders will receive a 34 per cent rise in the half-time dividend to 9.2p gross and it is the board's intention to equalize the half-year and full year payments. The group's shares rose £¼ to £10¼ on the news.

Mr George Helsby, chairman, says, progress within the group's mining division has been excellent. The property division has experienced mixed fortunes with some weak demand at home, but there are signs that demand for industrial property is beginning to pick up. Overseas, he said, results were satisfactory and sales in the oil division were delivered well ahead of national trends.

Scotscros buys two companies

Scotcros, the Glasgow-based packaging, food and engineering group, has made two international purchases, one in France and one in the United States, for £1.4m.

In France it has reached agreement for the acquisition of 65 per cent of the share capital of E. P. Remy et Cie, a private company situated in Dreux. The consideration is 9.75m francs (£891,000). Permission has been received from the relevant French authorities and completion will take place in December.

Remy manufactures and sells a wide range of bottle filling and handling equipment. In the year to last December sales were 45m francs and profits before tax but after charging interest and owner's remuneration totalled 3.5m francs. Total net assets at December 31 were 16.4m francs.

In the United States Scotcros has reached agreement to buy the entire share capital of Sotex, a Swiss company whose assets are in California. The consideration will be $1m (£513,000) in cash.

The base in California will be used to expand Scotcros' overseas sales and will provide a valuable introduction for J. Deans and Company, Scotcros' wine importer and bottler, to the fast growing Californian wine industry.

Dresdner Bank to pay dividend

Dresdner Bank, West Germany's second largest private sector bank, will be able to pay a dividend for this year despite losses on gold dealing and from an injudicious investment in fixed interest securities by its subsidiary, the Deutsche Läenderbank.

Dr Hans Friderichs, the bank's chief executive, told a press conference that the net profit for 1981 was likely to be less than last year's Dm155m (£35.8m). But the bank was now looking forward to the next year with a cautious optimism

Greenall climbs 10pc

By Peter Wainwright

Greenall Whitley, the largest independent brewery in the country, best known for Vladivar, the vodka from Warrington, yesterday reported a 10.3 per cent increase to £22.5m in pretax profits for the year to September 25.

This advance was better than that recently reported by Whitbread, but much worse than the one returned by Allied-Lyons which was, however, recovering from a bad previous year. Turnover at Greenall went up by 8.7 per cent to £194.9m, indicating a fall in quantity sold.

The group owns more than 1,700 hotels, pubs and off licences. The year's figures indicate that Greenall did better in the second half, but this largely reflected the timing of beer price increases. Mr Christopher Hatton, chairman, reports: "It is too early to predict current trends, but trading conditions continue to be difficult." Even so, the total dividend rose 10 per cent to 4.9p gross.

The shares fell 3p to 137p yesterday.

Good Relations to join Unlisted Market

By Our Financial Staff

Good Relations Group, one of the three largest public relations consultancies in the country, yesterday was the first of its kind to open its doors to investors.

The group is joining the Unlisted Securities Market with a placing of 28.5 per cent of its equity. The issue is for 950,000 shares of 10p each at 61p per share and will raise £503,500. Since none of the directors is disposing of any shares, the entire proceeds will be kept by the group to be used for expansion plans, which include finding new premises to bring its offices under one roof.

Good Relations is forecasting pretax profits of £250,000 for the year to December 31 on turnover of about £2.4m. This compares with profits last year of £107,000 on turnover of £2m.

At the placing price, the price earnings ratio is 12.1. With the recommended dividend for next year of not less than 2.5p, the gross yield would be 5.9 per cent and covered twice on the basis of forecast earnings per share of 5.03p this year.

Good Relations, founded by Mr Anthony Good in 1960, covers a range of services from consumer to industrial, financial and corporate information to advising clients on developments at home and in the EEC. It has some 55 contracted clients on its lists with no one company exceeding 10 per cent of turnover, but Philips Industries and Johnsons Wax are among its largest clients.

Stockbrokers Laurie, Milbank arranged the share placing and dealings are expected to start next week on December 10.

Universities to finance Trust Securities project

Trust Securities Holdings, the Unlisted Securities Market quoted group headed by Mr Peter Jones, yesterday unveiled its long awaited financing of the substantial 350-acre scheme at Heathrow Airport known as the Stockley Park Project Trust.

TSH announced that the first phase of the scheme, amounting to about 1.5 million sq ft of offices and industrial and warehousing accommodation, will be funded by the Universities Superannuation Scheme for £50m.

It is being developed in conjunction with the London Borough of Hillingdon, and will be a mixed leisure and commercial development. About 258 acres of the park will be devoted to a public golf course and other facilities.

A commercial science park is expected to extend to around 90 acres of which 75 acres will be a low density campus-style commercial development of 1.5 million sq ft.

Now that details of the scheme have been revealed, Trust still has to get planning permission before it can begin work. Mr Jones believes it could start next September.

The project is likely to cost £100m to £125m to develop and could have an investment value of around £175m.

Mr Jones said yesterday the group had already received enquiries for as much as 4 million sq ft of commercial and industrial space.

M L Doxford in liquidation

Commodity broker M. L. Doxford has gone into voluntary liquidation after unsuccessful attempts to sell both its St James Street property and its business. Doxford specialized in managing commodity portfolios for both private and institutional clients, but announced that it had ceased trading in commodities on November 17. Talks on the sale of the property and the business are still continuing. Mr George Auger of accountants Stoy Hayward has been apointed liquidator and the first creditors' meeting will be on December 16. Wilson Smithett and Cope, a subsidiary of commodity traders Guinness Peat, is the main creditor having lent Doxford more than £2.5m against the security of Doxford's head office premises.

Best-ever half-year for Scapa

The Scapa Group's profits for the six months to September 30 represent the best half-year in the company's history.

Although United Kingdom sales declined, those in North America and other countries soared, with the result that the total was up from £39.6m to £48.9m. United Kingdom operating profits were down, but with those from North America doubling and the contribution from elsewhere higher, the total is up from £5.3m to £7.8m. Interest payable has fallen from £1.13m to £1m and so pretax profits have jumped by 62 per cent to £6.81m. Pretax profits for the year to March 31 reached a best-ever £9.28m.

Lifting the interim dividend from 4p to 4.28p gross, the directors say they are confident that the year's results will show a considerable rise.

Sir J. Causton

On turnover up from £14.2m to £14.9m, pretax profits of Sir Joseph Causton and Sons rose from £824,000 to £886,000 in the year to September 30.

The board explains that the continued strength of the group's specialist book printing, packaging and publishing businesses more than compensated for the decline in general commercial printing profits. The total gross dividend is going up from 2.87p to 3.04p a share.

United Wire

On turnover down from £14.6m to £14.3m, the United Wire Group's pretax profits slipped from £798,000 to £632,000 in the year to October 3. As the first half-year's profits were only £30,000, there was a big improvement in the last six months. In view of the present year's favourable outlook, the total dividend is being maintained at 8.21p gross a share.

Fine Art lower

Although sales expanded from £31.6m to £32.8m, pretax profits of Fine Art Developments, a greeting card publisher, slipped from £680,000 to £565,000 in the half-year to September 30. During the second half, sales have shown some improvement, but the year's pretax profits are not expected to match last year's £4.63m.

The interim payment is held at 1.57p gross.

Ductile Steels

In the first 14 weeks of the year to October 3, Ductile Steels made a pretax profit of £909,000, compared with a loss of £543,000 in the first 13 weeks of the preceding year. Output and sales have continued to increase, reports the board. All companies are back to normal working and the board expects pretax profits for the first half-year to be at least £2m.

Sale Tilney

Sale Tilney has exercised its option to purchase the remaining 49 per cent of the capital of James Marshall (Glasgow) that it does not already own. The consideration will be £206,780, satisfied by 89,598 ordinary shares and £45,504 in cash.

Business appointments

Overseas commercial chief for Talbot

Mr E. W. Gadd has been named the Talbot Motor Company director for overseas commercial operations. His responsibilities include Talbot's resident organization in Iran, Iran sales administration and overseas supply.

Mr M. J. M. Morgan has been made general manager for international coordination of Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds from January 1. He is at present director and general manager for sales of the subsidiary company, GKN Contractors. He succeeds Mr J. A. Beaumont, who is retiring.

Mr Roger Corley will become general manager of the Clerical, Medical & General Life Assurance Society after the retirement of Mr Leonard Hall on February 25. Mr Hall will continue as a director of the society. Mr Andrew O'Leary is to be actuary and secretary, Mr Eric Hodson asistant general manager (administration), Mr Peter Ford joint actuary and Mr Gerard Smyth chief accountant.

Mrs Jane Calnan has been named by the Dairy Trade Federation as industrial relations director. She replaces Mr Nicholas Finney, who has been made director of the National Association of Port Employers.

Mr Richard G. Orr has been designated vice-president for airline planning at Pan American World Airways.

Dr Charles Suckling is to join Albright & Wilson as a part-time non-executive director from January 1. He is to retire shortly from his present post as general manager of research and technology for the ICI Group worldwide.

Mr C. Minton will be joining BPC as director of communications from January 1. Mr D. J. Harbut has resigned from the board.

Mr R. A. Sheppard has become deputy managing director of Cayzer, Irvine Shipping on the retirement of Mr I. B. T. Galloway. In addition to Mr Sheppard's directorships of Union-Castle Line and Clan Line he now becomes a director of King Line, Houston Line, Scottish Shire Line and Scottish Tanker Company. At the same time Mr J McNaught has gone on to the boards of Union-Castle Line and Clan Line and Mr D. H. Evans has joined the board of The Scottish Tanker Company.

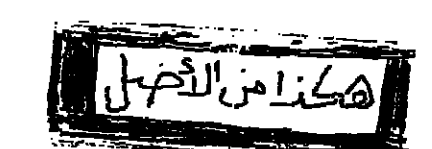
Mr Roger L. Low is now managing director of Dean Witter Reynolds Overseas.

Mr Ian H. Phillipps has been made a director of The British Steam Specialities Group.

Mr Arthur Brittenden, who has been deputy editor of *The Sun* for nine years, has become director of corporate relations for News International. He will take charge of public relations for The News Corporation and all its activities, as well as coordinating all corporate and staff relations for News International in Great Britain. Mr Brittenden will operate from Gray's Inn Road and will take up his new duties as soon as possible.

Mr Stephen R. Petschek has been named president and chief financial officer of Amcon Group, the North American subsidiary of Consolidated Gold Fields.

Mr Frank Leach has been made director of finance for EMI Films. Previously he was company secretary and a director, and succeeds Mr John Chambers who leaves EMI at the end of the year.



MARKET REPORTS

Full listing for Cussins Property

Brokers Capel-Cure Myers are placing a quarter of the capital of Cussins Property Group of Newcastle in a full stock market listing. Cussins derives 57 per cent of its profits from residential development, 33 per cent from commercial development, and 10 per cent from rents.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E Actual	P/E Fully Taxed
115	100	ABI Hldgs 10% CULS	115	—	10.0	8.7	—	—
75	39	Airsprung Group	66	—	4.7	7.1	10.5	14.5
52	21	Armitage & Rhodes	43	—	4.3	10.0	3.6	8.1
200	97½	Bardon Hill	191	+1	9.7	5.1	9.3	11.3
104	88	Deborah Services	89	-2	5.5	6.2	4.4	8.3
126	88	Frank Horsell	122	+2	6.4	5.2	11.0	26.5
110	39	Frederick Parker	61	+1	1.7	2.8	26.5	—
110	46	George Blair	46	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	IPC	100	—	7.3	7.3	7.2	10.9
113	59	Jackson Group	97	—	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9
130	103	James Burrough	110xd	+1	8.7	7.9	8.0	10.1
334	244	Robert Jenkins	263xd	-5	31.3	11.9	3.7	9.3
59	50	Scruttons "A"	53xd	—	5.3	10.0	8.2	7.8
224	173	Torday Limited	173	—	15.1	8.7	6.7	11.5
23	8	Twinlock Ord	13¼	—	—	—	—	—
90	68	Twinlock 15% ULS	72xd	—	15.0	20.8	—	—
56	32	Unilock Holdings	32	—	3.0	9.4	5.7	9.7
103	79	Walter Alexander	79	—	6.4	8.1	5.2	9.2
263	181	W. S. Yeates	214	—	13.1	6.1	4.1	8.2

Stock markets

Doubts on economy cast shadow

Faced with a cut of ½ per cent in base rates and the prospect of some sparkling figures from three of the UK's biggest groups, equities looked set for an all round improvement yesterday. As it happened, the market had other ideas after the Government's latest economic package, which left many observers doubtful about its economic recovery. As a consequence, prices opened sharply lower.

Many dealers said the latest cut in interest had already been discounted, and remained openly disappointed by the size of the reduction announced first by National Westminster, whose shares dipped 10p to 398p. The move was quickly copied by Midland Bank, 2p off at 331p, also after reporting figures. The final blow of the day came from British Petroleum, which dropped 12p to 326p after third-quarter figures some £60m below most market estimates. As a result, jobbers were forced to go on the defensive marking prices sharply lower amid heavy selling.

At one stage the FT Index was showing a fall on the day of 11.8 before closing 11.1 down at 519.9.

The gilt market, which has been strong lately in expectation of a fall in interest rates, was as lacklustre as equities and opened lower in thin trade. Even the call for further immediate reductions in US prime rates in Washington failed to lift the market which saw losses of £½ in longs and £1/16 in shorts.

Blue chips spent a far from satisfying day with heavy losses across the board as jobbers continued to deter the sellers. ICI fell 8p to 284p, Beecham 8p to 206p, Glaxo 10p to 412p, Unilever 13p to 598p, Bowater 3p to 208p, GKN 4p to 163p, Grand Metropolitan 5p to 182p, Hawker Siddeley 4p to 314p, Imperial Group 3p to 69p, Lucas Industries 4p to 211p, UDS Group 2p to 69p and Vickers 3p to 158p. John Brown continued its slide, losing 5p to 58p after forecasting losses of £4m in its machine tool division earlier in the week.

On the bid scene, Trafalgar House slipped 2p to 96p after confirmation of its sale of 15 per cent of French Kier, worth about £6.4m. Fairclough Construction was the buyer, up 2p at 132p, and this immediately started speculation that a full bid was about to be launched for French Kier, up 3½p at 94p.

Shares of Braham Millar were suspended at 27p pending the outcome of the offer by tender for 30 per cent of the shares by Bath and Portland.

Still reflecting the potential of its Heathrow development, Trust Securities added 7p at 335p while speculative attention lifted Lawtex 6p to 47p, Cowan de Groot 3p to 31p and Zambia Copper 3p to 22p.

Recent newcomer to the USM Nimslo rallied 5p to 150p, but still remains at a 60p discount on the offer price. Another newcomer, Feedback, continued to make progress, rising 6p to 106.

Fears of heavy losses on its commodity broking interest wiped 2p from Guinness Peat at 91p. The price is still recovering from recent reports of a boardroom rift.

Better than expected figures added 8p to Pauls & Whites at 184p, 12p to Routledge Keegan Paul at 140p; 3p to Sir Joseph Causton at 29p, £¼ to Barnett & Hallamshire at £10⅞, 4p to Cawoods at 218p and 7p to Scapa Group at 160p.

The strong second half surge put 15p on United Wire at 63p while disappointing performances left Dawson Int. 11p easier at 130p, Greenall Whitley 3p off at 137p, Fine Art Developments 4p down at 46p and Leigh Interests 6p lower at 118p.

In banks, the figures from the Royal Bank of Scotland were judged to be in line with a 2p rise to 190p.

Still reflecting recent profits news, Pilkington Brothers continued to slide, losing 12p to 268p with Matthew Hall 6p lighter at 212p on profit taking.

The electrical market was unable to gain much impetus from the performances of GEC and Plessey and prices drifted generally easier amid persistent selling. Racal, awarded a £26m defence contract earlier in the week, fell 7p to 418p, Ferranti 5p to 580p and Standard Telephones & Cables 5p to 435p.

In drinks Allied-Lyons held firm at 75½p, still drawing strenghth from a promising set of figures earlier in the week. Bass, reporting next week, fell 5p to 205p. Profit taking was also responsible for 1p off Highland Distilleries at 80p, 2p off Arthur Bell at 148p and 3p off Distillers at 180p. Only Invergordon resisted the trend, adding 2p to 150p.

Phoenix Assurance eased 2p to 252p, after quarterly figures in line with expectations, with the rest of the composite sector also in tow. Commercial Union fell 4p to 132p, General Accident 2p to 338p and Royal Insurance 5p to 353p.

Oils could gain little comfort from the BP profits, with Shell losing 6p to 396p, Ultramar 10p to 495p, Lasmo 18p to 459p, Tricentrol 6p to 264p and Burmah 3p to 122p.

Among second liners, KCA International stood out with a 5p rise at 147p.

Equity turnover on December 2, was £119,632m (11,758 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were: United Wire, GEC, Plessey, Pilkington Bros, and Burton Ord.

Traded options: Total contracts rose to 1,551 of which BP attracted 438p calls.

Traditional options saw some calls in Town & City on 2¼p and Royal Bank of Scotland on 22p.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Brit. & Amer. Film (I)	—(—)	0.11(0.139)	2.58(3.01)	1(1)	4/1	—(2.87)
Barnett & H. (I)	59.9(39.1)	5.7(4.0)	34.6(22.26)	6.5(4.85)	22/1	—(11.25)
BP (9 mths) (I)	21,472(18,724)	3,428(3,594)	48.4(68.3)	—(—)	—	—(20.25)
Sir J. Causton (F)	14.9(14.24)	0.88(0.82)	7.0(4.8)	1.35(1.22)	5/2	2.13(2)
Cawoods (I)	159.9(148.7)	5.9(5)	8.5(7.5)	1.55(1.4)	28/1	—(3.9)
Dawson Int. (I)	95.4(82.8)	9.13(8.19)	—(—)	2(2a)	22/1	—(5.5a)
Crosby Woodfield (F)	3.28(5.04)	0.055(0.14b)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(0.05)
Dundee & Lon. Inv. (F)	—(—)	1.07(0.99)	4.11(3.94)	2.75(2.6)	21/1	4(3.85)
Fine Art Dev. (I)	32.7(31.6)	0.56(0.68)	0.75(0.7)	1.1(1.1)	15/1	—(2.75)
Ductile Steels (1st qrt)	—(—)	0.9b(0.54b)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(4.5)
G.E.C. (I)	1,980(1,594)	247(189)	26(20.3)	4.2(3.5)	31/3	—(10.25)
Hellenic & Gen. (I)	—(—)	0.77(0.85)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Greenall, Whitley (F)	194(179)	22.5(20.39)	13.05(11.6)	1.8(1.6)	5/2	3.4(3.1)
Keystone Inv. (F)	—(—)	1.0(1.09)	—(—)	6.6(7.25)	4/2	10.6(10.5)
Leigh Int. (I)	11.55(11.15)	0.32(0.61)	—(—)	1.8(1.8)	—	—(5.63)
Morgan Cruc. (9 mths)	97.79(94.11)	5.32(8.91)	7.0(12.6)	—(—)	—	—(7.5)
Pauls & Whites (I)	131(111.7)	4.6(3.0)	12.01(7.61)	2.2(1.7)	15/1	—(6.5)
Plessey (I)	449.3(398.7)	51.3(38.6)	13.41(10.16)	—(—)	—	—(7.63)
Routledge & K. Paul (I)	2.47(2.11)	0.12(0.024)	7.7(2.0)	1.0(—)	18/3	—(3.0)
Royal Bk of Scot. (F)	—(—)	107.9(102.5)	29.7(30.7)	3(2.7)	5.4(4.9)	
Scapa Group (I)	48.9(39.5)	6.81(4.19)	9.9(7.3)	3(2.8)	22.1	—(6.55)
Stanelco (F)	1.15(1.04)	0.22(0.071)	3.2(2.3)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Trans-Oceanic (F)	—(—)	1.58(1.54)	2.58(2.55a)	1.6(1.5a)	25/2	2.5a(2.3a)
Unt. Wire (F)	14.2(14.5)	0.63(0.79)	5.75(7.08)	3.5(3.5)	22/1	5.75(5.75)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. a=Adjusted for scrip issue; b=Loss.

Metals Exploration fight for N Kalgurli

By Michael Prest

Metals Exploration, the Australian mining company, has made a partial bid of A£1.50 a share for 15 per cent of North Kalgurli Mines, an Australian gold mining comany. The offer is a decisive step in the struggle for control of North Kalgurli.

An acrimonious public dispute has broken out between the two companies. Metalsex, which has a 20 per cent stake in North Kalgurli, has accused the company of undue slowness in reopening its mine on Kalgoorlie's famous Golden Mile.

North Kalgurli has responded, saying that Metalsex has no experience of gold mining and only wants to obtain control of the company cheaply. Last week, Metalsex appealed to North Kalgurli shareholders to put four of its directors on the board. Mr John Jones, chairman of North Kalgurli, said this was an attempt to control the company

But the Metalsex bid has gone a long way to scotching that argument. Metalsex could still gain effective control by acquiring a 35 per cent stake. That is normal and acceptable under Australian rules, however.

If more than 15 per cent of North Kalgurli shares are offered to Metalsex, acceptances will be split proportionately. Metalsex claims that it will put on the North Kalgurli board directors with experience of the Kalgoorlie area.

Wall Street

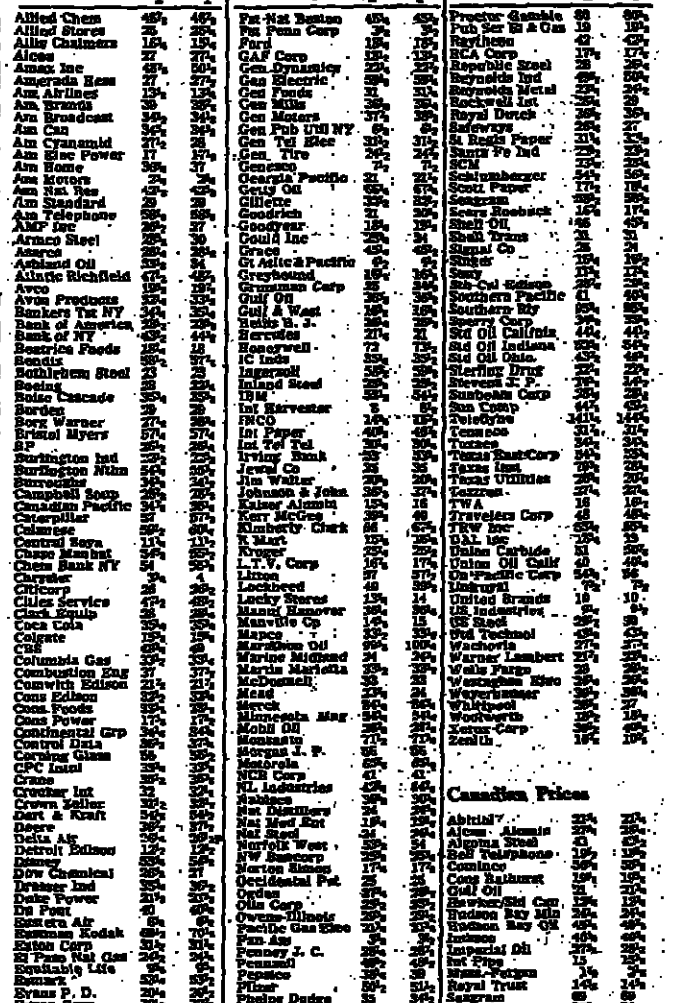
New York, Dec 3.—Stocks moved lower in light early trading as investors moved to the sidelines to await further developments in interest rates and the economic outlook.

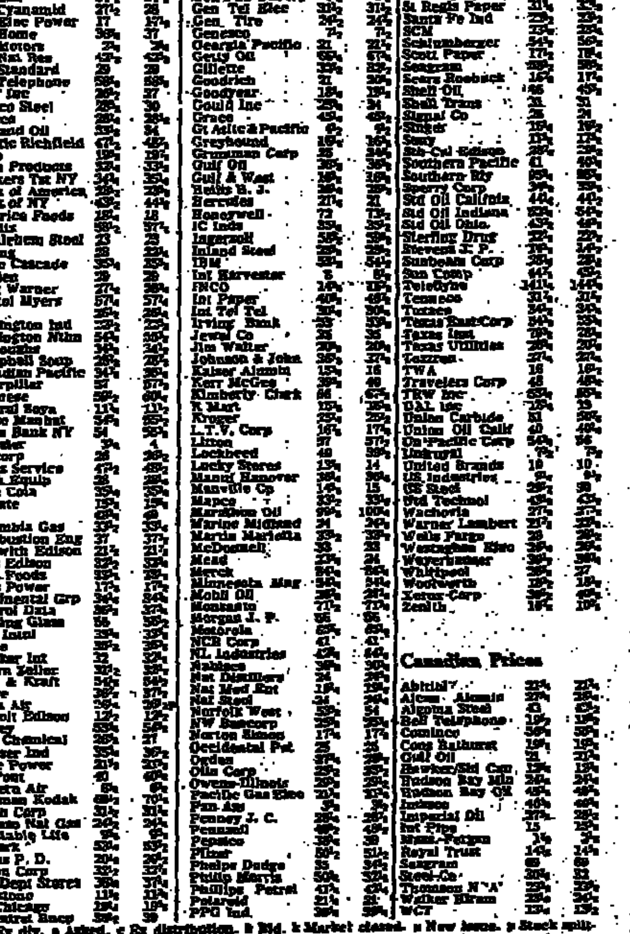
The Dow Jones industrial average was off about three, declines led advances by two to one and volume totalled some 4.5 million shares in the first half-hour of trading.

On Wednesday stocks which were lower from the opening bell began a steeper decline late in the session and closed at their lowest levels of the day.

The Dow Jones industrial average was off 7.61 at 882.61. It had been off about four points from the first hour this morning. Declines topped 1,000 issues and led advances by more than 2-to-1.

But volume slowed to 45,230,000 shares from 53,980,000 shares on Tuesday.





Cawoods climbs 17pc

By Our Financial Staff

Pretax profits of Cawoods Holdings, the Harrogate-based fuel distributor, builders' merchant and quarry owner, rose by 17 per cent to £5.9m in the first six months to September. Turnover increased by 7.5 per cent to £160m.

The group's trading profit rose from £3.9m and after a slight drop in the share of associated companies, profit before interest was £5.1m compared with £4.5m.

The after-tax profit was £4.2m, while the profit available to shareholders also came out at £4.2m compared with £3.6m. For the whole of the previous financial year the group made pretax profits of £13.5m and attributable orofits of £10.6m.

Record at Dawson Int

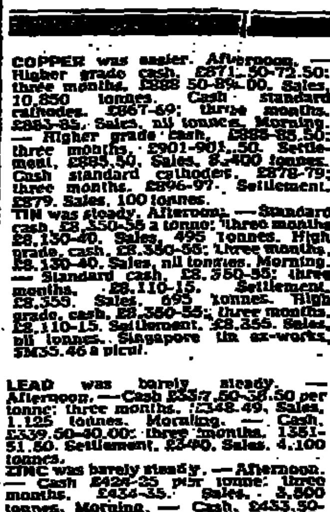
Pretax profits of Dawson International, the the Scottish-based high quality textiles group, rose by 11.5 cent to a record £9.1m for the first six months to September. Turnover increased by 15 per cent to £95.4m.

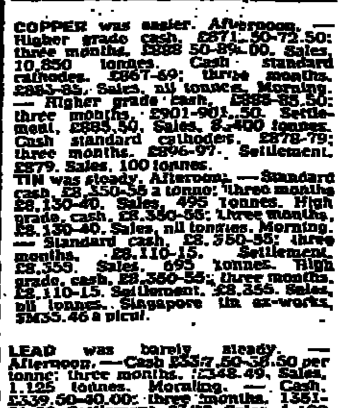
At the attributable level profits were £5.7m compared with £5.1m. In the year to last March the group made pretax profits of £20.7m on turnover of £181.4m.

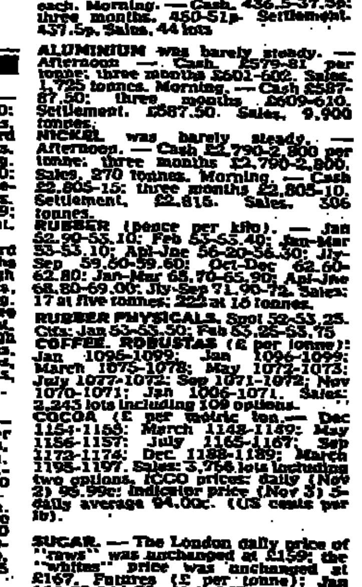
Mr Alan Smith, the chairman, said in his half-yearly statment — margins continued to be under pressure but subsidiary companies were increasing their efforts for better productivity.

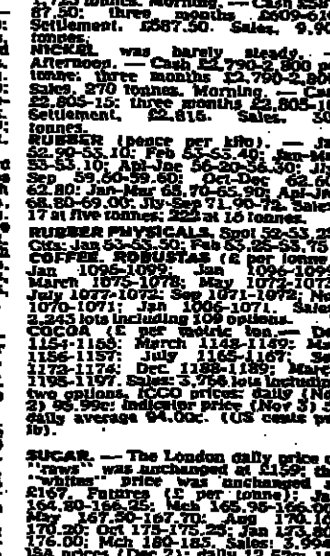
Although exports were well up on last year, sterling was still too strong in real terms and a further downward trend against most currencies would help.

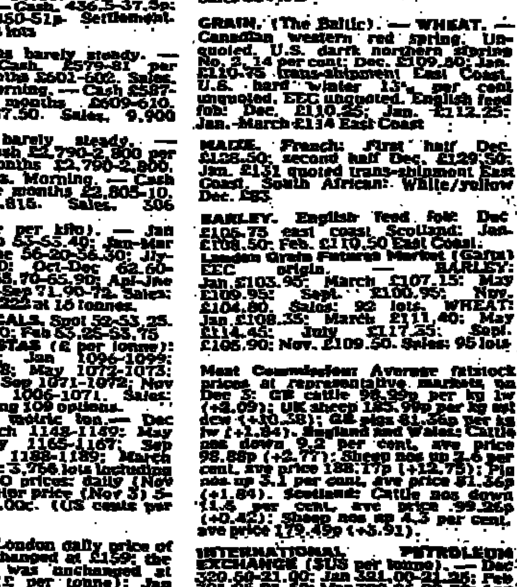
Commodities

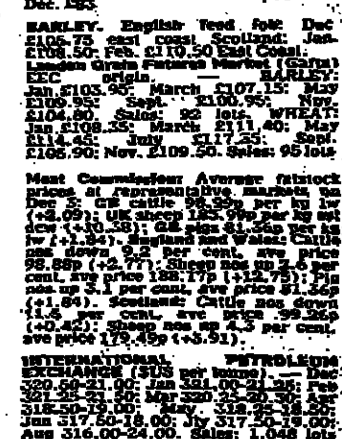












Cricket

Gooch to learn if run of failures have cost him Test place

Hyderabad, Dec 3.—Graham Gooch will learn tomorrow just how high his chances are of being retained by England for the second Test in Bangalore, which begins on Wednesday, the Press Association reports. Gooch, the 28-year-old Essex opening batsman, has made a miserable start to the tour and his future was one of the problems facing the England captain, Keith Fletcher today.

Gooch has scored 85 runs in six first-class innings in India, and with only three of those coming in his two innings in the first Test match in Bombay, his international place is in danger.

Fletcher has to decide whether to persevere with Gooch in the match against South Zone, starting in Hyderabad tomorrow, or to plump for Geoff Cook. With so many batsmen suffering in England's 138-run defeat in Bombay, Fletcher can hardly afford to give a batting place in Hyderabad to anyone who will not be considered for the Bangalore Test. If Gooch is missing from the team tomorrow it can be safely assumed he has lost his Test place.

Cook's claims for a first Test appearance are hard to ignore as he has made the most of his limited opportunities on the tour. He scored 39 and 30 in his two first-class innings on the tricky wicket at Nagpur and also a half-century in the opening one-day game of the tour. Gooch, on the other hand, has failed to make runs for England in six Tests since the tour to the West Indies earlier this year.

He was dropped for the last Test against Australia at The Oval, but went back to Essex and scored 800 runs under Fletcher's leadership in the final month of the season. The England captain cannot understand why he has not produced that form for his country.

The problems of Gooch apart, there are 13 tourists anxious for practice. Only Ian Botham, with a finger injury and hit in the back by a stray ball in the nets this afternoon, has been ruled out. Although the Test batsmen need vital practice, Cook, John Lever, Paul Allott, Jack Richards, and Mike Gatting will have spent more than three weeks without a first-class game by the end of the Bangalore Test, if they do not play against South Zone.

In the all-India radio team tomorrow there will be a female commentator—Chandra Nayudu, daughter of a former Indian Test player, C. S. Nayudu. Among the names she will have to twist her tongue around in the South Zone side is Swaminathan, a left handed opening bat who was one of India's five cricketers of the year last season.

South Zone are led by the Test batsman Gundappa Viswanath. Their squad of 15 also includes other Test players, the all-rounder, Roger Binny; the wicketkeeper, Bharat Reddy; the off spinner, Shivlal Yadav and Krish Srikkanth.

Shirt-changers may leave team short

Players who leave the field to change their shirts will make their side one man short if the Test and County Cricket Board accept a new rule at their meeting on December 17.

Among the recommendations by the board's cricket committee is a suggestion that substitutes should be allowed only for a player who is ill or injured during a championship match.

Last summer Dennis Lillee, the Australian fast bowler, left the field to change his shirt after every spell to ensure that he did not risk a relapse during his recovery from viral pneumonia.

Mike Brearley, the England captain, questioned Lillee's absences, but the habit spread to other bowlers. If the rule is tightened, shirt changes and boot repairs will be carried out with only 10 men on the field.

The committee propose an increase of 30 minutes each day in county games, with standard hours of 11 to 7 on the first two days and 11 to 6.30 on the last. If the extra time is approved it will mean an increase of three hours per match compared with 1973. In 1974, the traditional starting time was brought forward from 11.30 to 11.

As a further move to encourage spinners the committee want a new ball to be available after 100 overs instead of 85.

Circles round the wicket should become a feature of all one-day competitions after the successful experiment last summer in the Prudential Trophy and the Benson and Hedges Cup.

Four-day championship matches, long favoured by some counties, stand little chance of being introduced. The board are expected to approve the current structure of the game, with one possible minor amendment of 24 instead of 22 championship games from 1983.

The cricket committee "consider the balance between three-day and one-day matches is about right. They are not in favour of increasing the number of one-day matches or introducing four-day championship matches."

Pakistan could call on some untried batsmen

Melbourne, Dec 3.—The Australian selectors have named an unchanged team to play Pakistan in the third and final Test match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground beginning on December 11.

Australia have already won the series with convincing victories at Perth and Brisbane and the chief interest in the match will be on Dennis Lillee's effort to become the highest wicket-taker in Test history.

Lillee has already picked up 15 Test wickets this season, taking his tally to 305, only four behind the West Indian spinner Lance Gibbs.

The umpires, Tony Crafter and Mel Johnson, have been replaced for the match by Robin Bailhache and Dick French, of Victoria. Australian officials said a complaint about Crafter and Johnson after the first Test by the Pakistani manager, Ijaz Butt, had nothing to do with the decision.

AUSTRALIA (from): G Chappell (captain), K Hughes, T Alderman, A Border, B Laird, G Lawson, D Lillee, R Marsh, J Thomson, D Wellham, G Wood and B Yardley.

Pakistan, for whom an easy one-day win over a South Australian Country XI at Port Lincoln today was little consolation for their recent failures, seem sure to introduce new blood into their team for more searching tasks ahead.

There is little scope for change in the Pakistani bowling, which relies on Imran Khan, but batting changes are likely. Rizwan-uz-Zaman, Saleem Malik and Mansoor Aktar are ready for inclusion in the team for the third Test. Saleem, an exciting 18-year-old right-handed batsman, is tipped to play in the internationals.

As the youngest member of the party, he has yet to play a Test or one-day international. He is an aggressive batsman and an excellent off-side fielder. He gave a glimpse of his batting form in today's victory, scoring 23 after opening the innings. The team for the World Series matches will be announced on Saturday.

South Australia: 161 for 8 wkts (50 overs) (P Schmerl 50); Pakistanis, 214 for 4 wkts (50 overs).—Reuter.

Five West Indians injured

Adelaide, Dec 3.—Clive Lloyd and Viv Richards were among the five players nursing injuries as the West Indian cricket party arrived in Adelaide today to prepare for Saturday's one-day World series clash with Pakistan.

Stephen Camacho, the team manager, said Lloyd was suffering from a groin strain and Richards had a bruised finger on his right hand. Michael Holding and Sylvester Clarke, the fast bowlers, and the opening batsman, Gordon Greenidge all had knee problems.

Camacho said Clarke was doubtful for the match but he expected Lloyd and Richards to be fit in time. Holding and Greenidge will have fitness tests tomorrow.

"We have been handicapped by injuries throughout the tour so far, but I want to field the strongest team I can," Camacho said. "All three teams—Australia, Pakistan and the West Indies—have won one game and lost one game in the present one-day series so this match is an important one if we are to go on and win the tournament," he added.—Reuter.

Sport in brief

Gabbay reaches Auckland after delay

Auckland, Dec 3.—The 65 foot French sloop, "Charles Heidsieck", skippered by Alain Gabbay, finished the second leg of the round the world yacht race last night, 12 hours behind the New Zealand yacht, Ceramco, having been becalmed for long periods during the 250 mile voyage down the coast to Auckland, Barry Pickthall writes.

FCF Challenger, the leading British yacht, skipered by Leslie Williams, was sighted becalmed 30 miles from the finish early this morning. Chay Blyth's 77 foot United Friendly, still several hundred miles from Auckland, is not expected to finish before the weekend.

☐ Vladimir Salnikov, the greatest long distance swimmer of all time, heads a powerful Soviet team to compete in the European short course swimming cup, sponsored by Ladbroke Hotels, in Barnet, from December 11 to 13. Salnikov, the Olympic champion over 400 metres and 1,500 metres freestyle, is the only man to have broken 15minutes for his speciality distance, the 1,500 metres.

☐ Eric Bristow, the world's leading darts player, is top seed for the world masters tournament which begins at Wembley Conference Centre today. With £5,000 for the winner, 113 players from 21 countries are taking part.

The defending champion, John Lowe from Chesterfield, who is seeded second, probably has the toughest group to qualify from, with Tony Skuse, the British Gold Cup singles champion, in his path.

Madrid, Dec 3.—Eddy Merckx, the former cycling champion, has turned down almost $1m offered by an American firm to compete in exhibitions in the United States. The exhibitions would have gone hand in hand with the promotion of the Belgian's bicycles in America.—AFP.

Real tennis

Australians nearly pay for complacency

By Roy McKelvie

The Australians Wayne Davies and Lachlan Deuchar nearly paid the price for complacency in the open doubles championship sponsored by Unigate at Queen's Club yesterday. In the end they beat Peter Dawes and Kevin Sheldon by 6—5, 6—3, 3—6, 5—6, 6—4 and will meet Christopher Ronaldson and Michael Dean in the final round tomorrow.

Davies and Deuchar not only led by two sets to love but, after playing a slack third set by 4—1 and 5—4 in the fourth set and later 5—2 and 40—love in the final: "When the final set began we said to each other that if we lose it is no ones fault but ours" Deuchar said. By the time the final set had begun, he had lost his normal smiling look. The whole affair was most unlike Australians who if they can bury the pom in sport do so with the utmost pleasure.

Dawes, with sound play on the floor for most of the match, and Sheldon, strong on service and the volley, are not the sort of players to treat lightly. The fact that they were twice within a point of their first set at 5—5—the best set played in the event so far—should have told the Australians that.

Yet Davies and Deuchar, who missed an easy volley to lose one of the match points, ignored the signs and were saved in the last game when Sheldon missed three backhands off the side wall and Dawes was caught deep in his forehand corner.

Ronaldson and Dean beat the amateurs John Ward and Peter Seabrook by 6—1, 6—0, 6—4. This was a jolly match with the losers getting a lot of difficult shots back.

SEMI-FINAL: W Davies (Bordeaux) and L Deuchar (Hobart, Tasmania) beat K Sheldon (Leamington) and P E L Dawes (Seacourt) 6—5, 6—3, 3—6, 5—6, 6—4; C Ronaldson (Hampton Court) and M Dean beat J D Ward and P G Seabrook 6—1, 6—0, 6—4.

Football

Visit to the lion's den may teach Barnsley the art of survival

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Barnsley, the conquerors of three first division sides so far in the League Cup, will not be surrounded by home comforts in the quarter-final. They were drawn away yesterday against the winners of the replay between Liverpool and Arsenal at Anfield next Tuesday and, if they are to reach the last four, must surpass even their performances against Swansea City, Brighton and Hove Albion and Manchester City, the giants who have fallen at their Oakwell ground.

Norman Hunter, Barnsley's manager, was unperturbed by the prospect. He spent the day moving furniture. His assistant, Norman Rimmington, reacted philosophically. "We have to go into the lion's den some time", he said, "and it might as well be now. The players are not so cocky as to think it will be as easy as the last one but it will be a great lesson for us, one way or the other."

Watford, their rivals near the top of the second division, are also drawn away against as yet unknown opposition. They will visit either Everton or Ipswich Town, who meet at Goodison Park next Wednesday. Graham Taylor, Watford's manager who has guided them to the last eight in the competition for the third time in four years, has no particular preference.

"As we are second in the table, we are naturally considered as promotion candidates", he said. "If we go up, we will have to play the likes of Everton and Ipswich every week. It will give us a good opportunity to measure our ability at the top level."

Crystal Palace, the other remaining second division side, are not surprisingly rated as outsiders. Even if they beat West Bromwich Albion in a belated fourth round tie at home on Tuesday, they must then take on the new favourites, Aston Villa, whose record of reaching five finals is second to none, at Villa Park.

A more likely outcome would bring together two centre forwards who have been hitting the headlines as often as the required target. Withe has scored in Villa's last four matches and Regis, three times the thorn in West Ham United's side recently, has taken his goal tally to eight goals in eight outings for West Bromwich.

The only pair who already know the task that lies ahead are Tottenham Hotspur, the FA Cup holders, and Nottingham Forest, who won the League Cup in 1978 and 1979 and reached the final last year. Home advantage, which could be crucial, belongs to Spurs, who beat Forest 3—0 in the league fixture at White Hart Lane in October.

Keith Burkinshaw, the manager of Spurs, said: "We've beaten them at home for the past three seasons, so I'm delighted with the draw. We've been given a chance to reach the last four and we intend to take it." He will know whether his side, now second favourites, have done so in the week beginning January 11.

Fifth round
Everton or Ipswich v Watford
Arsenal or Liverpool v Barnsley
Tottenham Hotspur v Nottingham Forest
Aston Villa v Crystal Palace or West Bromwich Albion
(Matches to be played week beginning January 11).

Boxing

Why Frazier is baffled by fears for his safety

From Ross Waby
Chicago, Dec 3

The Illinois State Athletic Board, who have been strongly criticized for giving Joe Frazier a licence, are confident that the former world heavyweight champion, who has not boxed since June 1976, will pass a medical examination before today's match against Floyd Cummings. Criticism of the board was based on fears that he could be seriously injured if his defensive skills have eroded or if he is not in peak physical condition.

However, Mr Bob Goodsitt, the board's vice-chairman, said: "If Dr Jorge Tovar, our physician, is not satisfied with Frazier's condition he will be disqualified. Frazier had brain, head and heart tests in Philadelphia and they were made available to our doctor." Mr Goodsitt added that he had not ordered a brainscan, an automatic precaution for a boxer knocked out in his last bout, as Frazier was by George Foreman.

Frazier was baffled by the controversy: "I am not going to get hurt", he said. "I appreciate the concern but the heavyweight division is bad now. There is nobody who can kill a guy with one punch. I do not see any dangers out there. That is why I am back. Boxing fans are not getting their money's worth. They see 10 rounds and there is no hurt, no blood. Not like when I was fighting."

He admitted that money had motivated his return. His biggest prize was $2.1 million for successfully defending his title against Muhammad Ali in 1971. "Now I see guys getting 10 million for doing nothing", he said, referring to Ali's embarrassing debacle against champion Larry Holmes last year. "I see guys getting five million for climbing out of the ring." Roberto Duran quit in his infamous bout with Sugar Ray Leonard. "I can always use more money."

Frazier has been guaranteed $80,000 for tonight's bout and was paid $15,000 for training expenses. Cummings, a convicted murderer who only became a professional at 28 and has had 16 wins in 17 bouts, is fighting for $10,000.

Avelar pulls out

Mexico City, Dec 3.—Antonio Avelar the Mexican World flyweight champion's title defence against Prudencio Cardona, of Colombia, scheduled for December 12, has been postponed, a World Boxing Council official said yesterday. Avelar is suffering from a stomach complaint.—Reuter.

Snooker

Cool Griffiths moves to a confrontation with Davis

By Sydney Friskin

Terry Griffiths, battling for a title he has never won, and Tony Meo, striving to gain recognition, were involved in an absorbing match at the Guild Hall, Preston, yesterday. The occasion was the semi-final of the United Kingdom championships, sponsored by Coral. At the interval of the 17-frame match Griffiths led 5—3.

Griffiths won, and will meet Steve Davis, the holder, in the final which starts today.

It was the old story of youth versus experience, Meo aged 22, up against Griffiths, 34, a former world champion coolly bringing his art and craft into play, and Meo, after his fine 9—4 victory over Alex Higgins in the quarter-finals, trying to assert authority.

Meo is a contemporary of Jimmy White, though three years older. Both were educated at the Ernest Bevin comprehensive school in Tooting and their snooker careers progressed along similar lines, though at different places. Meo, though English born, is of Italian parentage.

Meo almost cheekily jumped into a 2—0 lead yesterday, helped by a break of 46 in the first frame and 107 in the second. This was the seventh century break of the tournament: if Meo had cleared the table the break would have been 129, but it ended with a somewhat hasty shot on the brown.

Griffiths, quietly setting himself to the task of reconstruction, then made a useful break of 27 after Meo had failed to pot the black and, although Meo recovered some ground, a break of 38 by Griffiths was enough to make Meo concede the third frame. A break of 40 by Griffiths in the fourth provided him with a solid base on which to build and put himself in an unassailable position.

Griffiths gained early ascendancy in the fifth frame which he sealed with a run of 23 points, not bothering to attempt the black, the value of which was inconsequential. It was almost the same story in the sixth, Griffiths finishing with a winning sequence and once again rejecting the black.

There was a fine finish to the seventh frame which Meo won, although he had earlier been in difficulty, with a courageous pot on the pink following up with the black. But a bad safety shot by Meo in the eighth frame let Griffiths in and he was master of it with a clearance break of 99.

The board of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) met yesterday morning to consider the situation arising out of the dispute concerning the demand for appearance money for future tournaments on behalf of certain players. This had particular reference to the case of Higgins and White, whose managing agents, Sportsworld, had asked for bigger guarantees on behalf of their players.

The Board passed the following resolution: "No member will be allowed to demand or receive appearance money or any payment other than the monies agreed by the board of directors of the WPBSA for any official tournament or championship sanctioned by the WPBSA. Any member contravening or attempting to contravene this rule will be disciplined which could result in suspension; or expulsion from the WPBSA".

It is reported that Harvey Lisberg, one of the directors of Sportsworld, is happy with the decision which is a credit to the snooker authorities. They have taken timely action to avert the situations which have in recent times seriously affected other branches of professional sport.



Terry Griffiths: nosing ahead.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND: T Griffiths (Llanelli) leads A Meo (Romford), 5—3 (Griffiths first): 46—75, 1—107, 65—23, 88—5, 105—29, 74—24, 60—67, 112—15.

Campaign to help youngsters

By Stuart Jones

Youngsters are expected to benefit by at least £750,000 from England's qualification for the World Cup. In unveiling their commercial plans for next summer yesterday, the Football Association announced that all the revenue raised from a variety of franchised products will be paid to the FA Youth Trust, a registered charity which provides facilities, equipment and training for schools, universities and people under the age of 21.

As Ted Croker, secretary of the FA, pointed out, such facilities will become increasingly important after the recent legislation enabled local authorities to sell off sports land for housing purposes, a move which the FA are to discuss in a fortnight. Mr Croker promised that the campaign would be "dignified" and would not be linked with either tobacco or hard drink, although he confirmed that the players' association with Courage would continue.

The official mascot and the successor to World Cup Willie, the lion used in 1966, is Bulldog Bobby, a barrel-chested cartoon dog whose toothy smile will be seen beaming on anything from T-shirts to key rings in the new year. The merchandise will not be ready until after Christmas because England made sure of taking part in the finals only last month.

The players' pool, instigated three years ago before the European Nations Cup, is also expected to continue to raise money for children as well as the handicapped. Organized by Harry Swales, Kevin Keegan's agent, the funds are collected from such public events as sports quizzes and the signing of footballs. "We hear enough about how greedy these players are supposed to be", Mr Swales said. "It is about time people realise how much time and effort they spend in order to help those who are less fortunate than themselves".

FIFA's official mascot for the World Cup, Sport Billy, has already proved itself an exceptional success. Products linked to the mascot have already achieved sales of over $500m in 80 countries. A solid gold Sport Billy trophy will be presented to the most sporting team playing in the finals in Spain.

Mascot with a smile.

Knocks give Ipswich problems

Ipswich Town are likely to field a makeshift attack at Middlesbrough tomorrow. Their League Cup victory at Bradford on Wednesday, left most of the players with knocks and there is a roll call this morning to see who will be fit for the weekend. Eric Gates is definitely out with a hamstring injury received last Saturday and Mariner, Brazil and O'Callaghan are all doubtful.

Hazard's match-winning goal for Tottenham Hotspur against Fulham means that Villa must wait a little longer before returning to the first team.

Wednesday's results

FA Cup
First round, second replay
Port Vale (0) 2 Armstrong, N Chamberlain — Lincoln (0) 0 — 5,373
Winners at home to Stockport

Third division
Chester (0) 1 Cooke — Doncaster (0) 1 Snodin — 1,656

League Cup
Fourth round
Barnsley (0) 1 Aylott — Man City (0) 0 — 33,792
Notts F (0) 2 Wallace, Rober — Tranmere (0) 0 — 12,244
Tottenham (1) 1 Hazard — Fulham (0) 0 — 30,214

Third round replay
Bradford C (1) 2 Ingham, Gallagher (pen) — Ipswich (1) 3 O'Callaghan, Muhren, Turner — 13,518
After extra-time: score at 90mins 1—1
Winners away to Everton

FA TROPHY: Second qualifying round replays: Wellingborough 1, Harlow 2; Wealdstone 5, Bedworth 1.

Rugby League
SECOND DIVISION: Salford 44, Batley 8.

Rugby Union
CLUB MATCHES: Bath 23, Cheltenham 7; Ebbw Vale 8, Moseley 9; Orrell 28, Otley 7.

Skiing

More races planned in poor snow

Val d'Isère, Dec 3.—The World Cup organizers, who have been forced to revise their racing schedule almost daily because of a lack of snow in the Alps, announced more changes today, including the addition of two women's downhill events here next week.

Officials have said the women's downhill would be held on Monday and Tuesday in this French Alpine village, where the 1981-82 season opens tomorrow with the traditional Criterium de la Premiere Neige.

One of the downhill races replaces a cancelled race in Piancavallo, Italy, scheduled for December 11. The other reinstates a race initially due to be run here this week.

The opening World Cup event tomorrow is a women's giant slalom, followed by a men's downhill on Saturday and a men's giant slalom on Sunday.

The organizers also said a giant slalom would be held in Pila, Italy, on December 12, and women's slaloms in Piancavallo on December 12 and 13.

They said the slalom course at Piancavallo was protected from the sun, but the long downhill course faced directly into the sunlight and for the moment was bare.—Reuter.

TRAINING TIMES: Men's downhill, first leg: 1, P Wirnsberger (Austria), 2.07.47; 2, P Mahre (US), 2.07.47; 3, W Grissmann (Austria), 2:07.65; 4, W Vesti (Switzerland), 2:07.87; 5, T Buergler (Switzerland), 2:07.96. Second leg: 1, F Heinzer (Switzerland), 2:06.91; 2, T Buergler (Switzerland), 2.07.13; 3, P Mueller (Switzerland) 2:07.29; 4, J Walcher (Austria), 2.07.46; 5, P Wirnsberger (Austria), 2:07.61; 6, K Read (Canada), 2:07.79.

Racing

Solid support from Cheltenham sponsors

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Cheltenham racecourse announced yesterday that they have found a sponsor to take over the two and a half miles handicap steeplechase which Massey Ferguson have supported at their December meeting since 1963, but will be doing so for the last time next Saturday. The Kennedy Construction Group, which has supported races at Liverpool in the past, have agreed to step into the breach and provide the lion's share of the prize money for the next three years at least.

Yesterday that company's managing director, Desmond McLaughlin, said they were delighted to be returning to race sponsorship especially at Cheltenham, which is renowned throughout the world as the home of steeplechasing, and pleased to be associated with an event which is already firmly established in the racing calendar. Under Massey Ferguson's banner it has produced many memorable results in the past—the victories of Flying Wild, Flyingbolt; The Laird and Pendil are still fresh in the mind. Next year the Kennedy Construction Group will be providing £12,000 of the £17,500 added money.

Still on the subject of the next meeting at Cheltenham it now looks increasingly likely that another of their sponsors, the Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, will be able to boast a big name for the second year in succession. Twelve months ago it was Diamond Edge who won their McEwan's Lager Steeplechase—next Friday it could easily be Border Incident, judged on the way that he ran in his first race of the season at Wincanton nine days ago. He jumped then with all his old spring-heeled fluency and in so doing left an indelible impression of complete recovery from the back trouble which plagued him throughout last season.

His trainer, Richard Head, told me that he was thrilled at the way Border Incident had come through and out of that race and delighted, too, with the weight that he has just been allocated for the Cheltenham race in this week's racing calendar. It had been his intention to keep Border Incident in reserve for the SGB steeplechase at Ascot, eight days later, but with only 10st 10lb to carry at Cheltenham Head is now inclined to strike while the iron is hot.

Along with John Francome, who knows Border Incident probably better than anyone else, Head will be at Kempton Park this afternoon attempting to win the Pond Handicap Steeplechase with Sea Captain.

There are, inevitably, 1,001 highlights during a season but as far as tact was concerned few surpassed Head's achievement last spring when he won the Three Fives Young Steeplechasers' final at Cheltenham with Sea Captain. For the horse belonged to Geoffrey Reeve, chairman of the sponsoring company, and it was a stroke of genius to produce Sea Captain hale and hearty on the day to win the prize that was obviously dearest to his owner's heart.

Queen Mother's gift horse is winner

Master Andrew, the horse given to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother by the Jockey Club as an 80th birthday present, gave her majesty her first winner of the season when landing the second division of the Askett Novices Hurdle at Warwick yesterday.

Making up ground smoothly from the mid-division, Bill Smith sent Master Andrew into the lead at the second-last flight and the 7-2 joint favourite stayed on strongly to win.

"It was the jockey, Ron Barry, who recommended Master Andrew as a suitable horse for the Jockey Club to give to the Queen Mother," Fulke Walwyn, the trainer, said: "He came to us before her birthday, but he had a bit of leg trouble, so we roughed him off and he is still very rusty."

STATE OF GOING (official): Kempton Park, good to soft. Newcastle, good to soft. Tomorrow, Chepstow, soft.

Warwick results

Going, soft.

12.45 (12.46) ASKETT HURDLE (Div. I: Novices: £890: 2m)
STEEPLE BELL, b g, by Tower Walk — Nine Lessons. 5-11-0 ... S Smith Eccles (2-1 fav) 1
Quite Lucky ... S Keightley (10-1) 2
Lone Charge ... A Holder (7-1) 3
TOTE: Win 56p, places 21p, 13p, 31p. Dual F. £1.06, CSF £2.22. M Stoute at Newmarket. 4l, nk. Sister Brown (4-1) 4th. 22 ran.

1.15 (1.17) KNIGHTON HURDLE (3-y-o: Selling: £699: 2m)
GSYWOOD, b g, by Tudor Rhythm — Smokey Dawn. 10-10 ... S Keightley (25-1) 1
Marsiegate ... M O'Halloran (8-1) 2
Goldliner Abbey ... P Scudamore (7-4 fav) 3
TOTE: Win £1.86, places 38p, 35p, 10p. Dual F. Winner or second with any other horse 22p. CSF £20.24. P M Taylor at Upper Lambourn. 6l, 2½l. Malseedy (16-1) 4th. 17 ran. Winner was bought in for 650 guineas.

1.45 (1.45) SHIPSTON CHASE (Handicap: £1,373: 3m)
TILTHAMMER MILL, br g, by Tiepolo II — Volgan's Moll. 7-11-1 ... S Morshead (2-1) 1
Santoss ... G Davies (5-1) 2
Royal Postora ... B Reilly (16-1) 3
TOTE: Win 24p, places 12p, 13p. Dual f. 62p, CSF £1.20. Mrs M Rimell at Kinnersley. 3l, 15l. Dromcondra 7-4 fav. Don Dominique (66-1) 4th. 7 ran.

2.15 (2.16) CHERINGTON HURDLE (Handicap: £1,342: 2m 5f)
SPIDER'S WELL, br g, by Pitpan — Glen Rambler. 5-10-10 ... P Hobbs (11-1) 1
Fernwood ... P Carvill (6-4 fav) 2
Pickled Tink ... Mrs L Sheedy (20-1) 3
TOTE: Win 95p, places 38p, 13p, 38p. Dual f. 86p, CSF £3.07. M Oliver at Droitwich. 2½l, 12l. Misty Glen (20-1) 4th. 22 ran.

2.45 (2.46) TEMPLE GRAFTON CHASE (Novices: £768: 2m)
MASTERSON, b g, by Master Owen — Yes Sir-Rom. 6-11-6 ... S Morshead (5-1) 1
Royal Friend ... H Davies (7-4 fav) 2
Bellingham ... A Holder (50-1) 3
TOTE: Win 50p, places 16p, 10p, 74p. Dual f. 62p. CSF £1.45. Mrs M Rimell at Kinnersley. Bobtree (8-1) 4th. 13 ran.

3.15 (3.18) ASKETT HURDLE (Div. II: Novices: £890: 2m)
MASTER ANDREW, br g, by Hopeful Venture — Conch. 6-11-0 ... W Smith (7-2 jt fav) 1
Lord North ... J Cox (5-1) 2
Able Wren ... S Keightley (8-1) 3
TOTE: Win 58p, places 34p, 34p, 16p. Dual f. £1.65, CSF £2.42. F Walwyn at Lambourn. 2½l, ¾l. Stormy Spring 7-2 jt fav. Sea Pennant (8-1) 4th. 19 ran.

PLACEPOT: £10.00

Ayr results

Going: Good to Soft.

12.30 (12.31) OLD TOLL HURDLE (Handicap: £841: 2m)
WESTERN MAN, br g, by Boreen — Bassaha (Mrs C Shipley) 6-11-10 ... C Bell (100-30) 1
Garth Boy ... P Caldwell (7-1) 2
William The First ... D Dutton (5-2 Fav) 3
TOTE: Win, £1.13; places 18p, 15p, 10p. Dual F. £5.24. CSF: £2.77. J Fitzgerald at Malton. 7l, ½l. Audit (16-1) 4th. 10 ran.

1.0 (1.2) BRAEHEAD HURDLE (Novices: £744: 2½m)
MORNING CHEER, b g, by London Gazette — Maggie's Daughter (T Tate) 7-11-5 ... Mr T Tate (Evens Fav) 1
Major Tom ... M Lynch (6-1) 2
Tanquin ... J J O'Neill (7-2) 3
TOTE: Win, 21p, places 10p, 17p, 32p. Dual F: 49p, CSF: 74p. T Tate at Otley. ¾l, 4l. Blueberry Bush (16-1) 4th. 11 ran.

1.30 (1.31) CROY CHASE (Handicap: £1,674: 2½m)
COFFEE BOY, b g by Kalydon — Lady Stone (A Grant) 9-11-8 ... D Goulding (5-4 Fav) 1
Twice Times ... J J O'Neill (5-1) 2
Peters Sparkle ... A Dickman (100-30) 3
TOTE: Win: 21p; Dual F: 40p; CSF 78p. C Thornton at Middleham. 10l, 2½l. Nord (25-1) 4th. 5 ran.

2.0 (2.03) SKELDON HURDLE (Handicap: £856: 2½m)
FIND THE SUN, ch f by Galivanter-Sunshine Holyday (C Gray) 4-9-10 ... M Hancock (15-8 fav) 1
Precipienne ... J J O'Neill (14-1) 2
Nodana ... C Hawkins (5-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 22p; places, 10p, 65p. Dual F: £4.22. CSF: £9.02. C Gray, at Beverley. 4l, 2l. Emerald Emperor (8-1) 4th, 7 ran.

2.30 (2.30) MARCHBURN CHASE (Novice: £1,344: 3m 110yds)
BLUE REEF, b g by Bluerory-In Shore (E Collingwood-Cameron) 8-11-8 ... R Lamb (3-1) 1
Soldier Bill ... R Barry (16-1) 2
Mister Moonshine ... J J O'Neill (10-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 73p; places, 13p, 72p, 21p. Dual F: £13.40. CSF: £5.17. W A Stephenson, at Bishop Auckland. 2½l, 2½l. Mr Snugg 11-8 fav. Rannerdale (25-1) 4th. 10 ran. NR: Billie Burn.

3.0 (3.01) GLAISNOCK HURDLE (Novice: 3-y-o: £718: 2m)
ADAM CRAIG, b c by Conaught-Karabina (Mrs A Trew) 11-0 Mr T G Dun (11-4 fav) 1
Torremo ... Miss D Jones (10-1) 2
Ran and Skip ... J J O'Neill (100-30) 3
TOTE: win, 57p; places, 11p, 46p, 10p. Dual F: £1.14. CSF: £3.62. M Naughton, at Richmond. 2½l, ¾l. Somal (100-30) 4th. 14 ran.

PLACEPOT: £26.65.

Kempton Park card

Tote: Double 2.0 and 3.0. Treble 1.30, 2.30 and 3.30.

1.0 BOOKHAM CHASE (novices: £1,662: 2½m) (9 runners)
101 00041-0 AFRICAN PRINCE, J Gifford, 6-10-10 ... H Davies
108 00-0040 GO GAILY, F A Smith, 6-10-10 ... C Mann 7
109 p302 LETTERBOX, N Henderson, 6-10-10 ... B R Davies
110 p-00444 MELEREK, Miss A King, 6-10-10 ... J Kear 4
111 400p-23 SHACKLETONS FLIER, R Shaw, 7-10-10 ... Mr P Nicholls 7
112 00-1004 SLANEY, I Wardle, 6-10-10 ... M Williams
114 000/0-u STORM PRINCE (B), I Dudgeon, 6-10-10 ... P Barton
115 0000-3 SULIMNOS, C House, 6-10-10 ... B de Haan
117 320-322 WELCOME HANDSHAKE (B), P Bailey, 7-10-10 ... R Linley
11-4 Welcome Handshake, 3 African Prince, 4 Slaney, 11-2 Letterbox, 10 Sulimnos, 12 Shackletons Flier, 14 Melerek, 20 others.

1.30 DOUG BARROTT HURDLE (Handicap: £2,320: 2m) (17)
201 211 DASMAN (D), F Winter, 6-11-10 ... J Francome
202 14010-0 LADY MARTHA (CD), R Head, 7-11-7 ... J Burke
204 1001-00 LOANAN (D), F Walwyn, 5-11-0 ... K Mooney
205 04-13 REMAINDER IMP (D), R Turnell, 4-11-0 ... A Turnell
206 0/0030- DESERT HERO (CD), F Walwyn, 7-10-10 ... W Smith
207 3p0400 ALLIED SEPENITE (D), J Jenkins, 5-10-10 ... M Harrington 4
208 010400- MR WHISKERS, T Bulgin, 7-10-10 ... R Champion
209 122102 ROADSTER (D), P Bailey, 5-10-10 ... R Linley
211 21p-311 HUNTING CRY (D), R Armytage, 7-10-9 ... A Webber
212 3-41221 SANHEDRIN (D), G Balding, 4-10-8 ... M Lynn 7
213 22-3000 KASLAND, H O'Neill, 4-10-8 ... G Gracey
215 3/0-0f3 ROYAL COMMOTION (D), Mrs W Sykes, 8-10-4 ... S Morshead
216 0211/p- MASCARENHAS (D), B Stevens, 8-10-3 ... Mr B Stevens
217 113-021 LAURA'S PRIDE (D), C Wildman, 4-10-3 (4 ex) ... P Hobbs
219 002-p00 FIRM FOUNDATIONS (C,B), M Hinchliffe, 4-10-1 ... J F O'Neill 7
220 0-02333 THE DOWNS, H O'Neill, 5-10-0 ... F Grimes 7
221 a3000/ BREATHING EXERCISE, J O'Donoghue, 8-10-0 ... I Campbell 7
7-2 Dasman, 4 Roadster, 9-2 Sanhedrin, 5 Laura's Pride, 7 Loanan, 10 Remainder Imp, 14 Desert Hero, 16 Lady Martha, 20 others.

2.0 POND CHASE (Handicap: £2,502: 3m) (8)
303 32100-2 MENDER (CD), R Armytage, 10-11-4 ... A Webber
304 32213- SEA CAPTAIN, R Head, 7-11-0 ... J Francome
305 4/03-004 SNOWSHILL SAILOR, R Turnell, 9-10-12 ... A Turnell
307 30p-040 MAC VIDI (CD), Miss P Neal, 16-10-3 ... W Smith
308 b3f3-21 ANOTHER DUKE (C), J Gifford, 8-10-2 ... H Davies
309 1-22222 OAKPRIME, D Nicholson, 6-10-1 ... P Scudamore
310 12-2b34 CISTO, D Thom, 8-10-0 ... S Smith Eccles
311 24111/p INTER STATE (D), J O'Donoghue, 8-10-0 ... I Campbell 7
5-2 Another Duke, 3 Oakprime, 7-2 Mender, 9-2 Cisto, 7 Sea Captain, 14 Mac Vidi, 20 others.

2.30 HAIG WHISKY HURDLE (novices: £1,436: 2m) (14)
401 332-211 BRIGHT OASIS (D), K Bailey, 5-11-0 ... A Webb
402 4b4-211 CHARLIE MUDDLE (D), S Mellor, 6-11-0 ... S Jobar
403 1133 SOLID ROCK (D), D Barons, 5-11-0 ... DOUBTFUL
404 002-210 MUSSO (C), F Winter, 5-11-6 ... J Francome
405 fp-1340 RUN TO ME (D), N Mitchell, 6-11-6 ... Mr N Mitchell
408 BAY DRAKE, J Bridger, 6-11-0 ... W Smith
414 00-0 RAY PROSSER, Mrs K Wallace, 5-11-0 ... Jessica Wallace 7
415 pp/0-0 SNOWSHILL SOLDIER, R Turnell, 6-11-0 ... A Turnell
416 0 SOCK DENNIS, R Hodges, 5-11-0 ... Christine Young
418 0 ANDROMA, Mrs M Rimell, 4-10-10 ... S Morshead
419 f HOLSWORTHY, I Dudgeon, 4-10-10 ... G McCourt
420 00 NORTH LANE, P Cundell, 4-10-10 ... H Davies
421 SOLBIRD, G Thorner, 4-10-10 ... R Kington
423 WHAT A CHEEK, Miss A King, 4-10-10 ... J Kear 4
7-4 Musso, 2 Charlie Muddle, 11-4 Bright Oasis, 8 Androma, 16 Run To Me, 25 others.

3.0 PALACE CHASE (Handicap: £2,414: 2½m) (8).
501 02-2221 SWEEPING ALONG (CD), J Gifford, 8-12-0 (4 ex) ... R Champion
502 1201-33 PRAYUKTA (CD), F Winter, 6-11-10 ... J Francome
503 210-310 PRETTY HOPEFUL (D), S Mellor, 6-11-5 ... S Jobar
504 24000-3 TIEPOLINO (D), P Cundell, 9-10-10 ... H Davies
506 311031 ZELDA'S FANCY, H O'Neill, 6-10-0 ... G Gracey
509 3-40puf HARRY HOTSPUR (CD), Mrs D Oughton, 11-10-0 ... S Smith Eccles
510 000-p00 TRISTRAM SHANDY, C House, 7-10-0 ... B de Haan
511 030f-00 CURRENT CHANCE, F A Smith, 10-10-0 ... C Mann 7
7-4 Sweeping Along, 11-4 Pretty Hopeful, 4 Prayukta, 8 Tiepolino, 12 Zelda's Fancy, 20 Harry Hotspur, 33 others.

3.30 REGENTS HURDLE (novices handicap: £1,423.50: 2m) (16)
602 2-00331 DU MAURIER (D), A Aylett, 8-11-13 (10 ex) ... M Harrington 4
603 402- TANGLE BRIAR, P Cundell, 6-11-10 ... J Francome
604 00-10 SILCAKEY, D Elsworth, 4-11-2 ... C Brown
606 0320-pp ICATO (B), A Moore, 5-10-13 ... G Moore 4
607 02300-0 BUSTINO, R Turnell, 7-10-12 ... A Turnell
608 240123 MALZA (D), J Fox, 4-10-12 ... Mr S Bush
609 000-0 MERLANE, G Balding, 6-10-8 ... M Chilton 7
613 03-3200 SINBEAD, H O'Neill, 4-10-6 ... G Gracey
615 0000-4f OXFORD LANE, P Bailey, 5-10-5 ... R Linley
616 00002/f JUBILEE IMP, J Holt, 5-10-5 ... W Smith
617 0/000- NOBLE VENTURE, W Musson, 7-10-1 ... A Coogan
619 0002 SILMIRA, Mrs R Lomax, 4-10-1
621 4030-42 BLACK EARL, I Wardle, 4-10-0 ... M Williams
622 3000/0f DAKAR, N Henderson, 5-10-0 ... S Smith Eccles
623 43004-0 ROBERT ADAM, Pat Mitchell, 6-10-0 ... —
624 0000- PYKESTAFF, C Austin, 4-10-0 ... T Austin 4
3 Black Earl, 9-2 Malza, 11-2 Silmira, 6 Oxford Lane, 7 Busting, 10 Silcakey, 12 Du Maurier, 14 Jubilee Imp, 16 Tangle Briar, 20 others.

Kempton Park selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
1.0 African Prince. 1.30 Dasman. 2.0 Sea Captain. 2.30 Musso. 3.0 Pretty Hopeful. 3.30 Black Earl.

Newcastle programme

12.45 CUCKOO HURDLE (Novices: £696: 2m 120yd) (8 runners)
1 f0f00- ARAGEN, G Lockerbie, 5-11-3 ... K Adshead
2 30/0030 ESTACADO, R Johnson, 5-11-3 ... —
5 0-34002 IMPERIAL AMBER, M Naughton, 5-11-3 ... C Bell
8 04-234f SPRING MOON, O Brennan, 5-11-3 ... M Brennan
9 402-423 BARRYPHILIPS DISCO, R Whitaker, 4-11-0 ... A McGlynn
10 00 LADY MARION, W A Stephenson, 4-11-0 ... K Jones
11 0 NOBLEU, P Asquith, 4-11-0 ... W Dudley
13 p SUCCEEDED, W A Stephenson, 4-11-0 ... J Grant
2 Imperial Amber, 5-2 Barryphilips Disco, 7-2 Spring Moon, 9-2 Estacado, 8 Nobleu, 14 others.

1.15 WAGTAIL HURDLE (Selling: £742: 2m 120yd) (18)
1 10-b00 CAROUSER, D Chapman, 4-12-0 ... P Tuck
2 2032-00 GALLIC-SAINT (B), D Yeoman, 4-12-0 ... R Barry
3 0300-00 FYLDON (B), O Brennan, 4-11-7 ... M Brennan
4 000 GO LIGHTLY, N Crump, 4-11-7 ... C Hawkins
7 004b42 ROSIE'S SECRET, A Smith, 4-11-7 ... C Grant
8 00 SECRET MINSTREL, J Parkes, 4-11-7 ... M Stephens 7
10 014 AUTUMN BOY, G Richards, 3-10-5 ... N Doughty
11 08f00 BUT BEAUTIFUL, C Pinkham, 3-10-5 ... D Lancaster 4
12 0 COTTAGE STAR, P Haley, 3-10-5 ... F Postill 7
13 02fb EDWARDS CORNER, T Barnes, 3-10-5 ... M Barnes
14 00 FRABWAH, E Alston, 3-10-5 ... —
15 e0 JEAN'S GAMBLE, G Lockerbie, 3-10-5 ... N Balmer
16 000 KING OF STRESS (B), W Storey, 3-10-5 ... J J O'Neill
18 f3 MERCURIAL, B Wilkinson, 3-10-5 ... S Charlton
19 POLIPUTER, G Harman, 3-10-5 ... P Harman 7
20 03 QUAM CELERRIME, W Bentley, 3-10-5 ... D Wilkinson
21 0 SAM WREKIN, C Bell, 3-10-5 ... C Pimlott
24 b21 WYTON BAR, A Smith, 3-10-5 ... A Dickman
7-2 Jean's Gamble, 4 Rosie's Secret, 5 Wyton Bar, 6 Carouser, Autumn Boy, 10 Gallic-Saint, 12 Mercurial, 14 Edward's Corner, Quam Celerrime, 16 others.

1.45 SWIFT CHASE (handicap: £1,735: 2½m) (8)
1 102112 DIRECT LINE (CD), W A Stephenson, 7-12-7 ... R Lamb
2 033034 PROMINENT KING (D), M H Easterby, 9-12-2 ... A Brown
3 21111-3 LITTLE BAY (DB), G Richards, 6-11-12 ... R Barry
4 p1s00-4 KELSO CHANT (D), B Wilkinson, 9-11-10 ... S Charlton
5 p04-203 BOBJOB, J Brockbank, 8-11-7 ... J J O'Neill
7 3/13112 SNOOPER (CD), W A Stephenson, 6-10-3 ... Mr E McIntyre 4
8 120-024 SKEGBY (D), O Brennan, 7-10-8 ... P Tuck
9 22124-4 CARAVINO, R Whitaker, 8-10-1 ... D Oldham
5-2 Little Bay, 4 Direct Line, Bobjob, 6 Prominent King, 8 Kelso Chant, 12 Skegby, Snooper, 16 Caravino.

2.15 JACKDAW HURDLE (Handicap: £886: 2m 120yd) (12)
1 2111b0- APPLE WINE, M W Easterby, 4-12-2 ... P Tuck
2 0-00210 LITTLE FRENCHMAN (CD), E Robson, 6-11-4 ... J Isherwood
3 11f024 TOM NOEL, C Pinkham, 6-11-3 ... D Lancaster
5 /0-0000 TUDOR FOLLY (CD), W A Stephenson, 5-10-8 ... R Lamb
10 114-02f REAY'S SONG, M Naughton, 7-10-8 ... C Grant
11 21- MILLFIELD LAD, M H Easterby, 4-10-7 ... A Brown
12 413-303 SANDICLIFFE, V Thompson, 6-10-5 ... Mr M Thompson
13 1403-00 SUNLIT RIVER, W Haigh, 4-10-3 ... P A Charlton
14 1-p1240 ESSEX, D McCain, 6-10-2 ... J J O'Neill
15 /ppp-p2 THE SOLENT, D Chapman, 5-10-0 ... K Whyte
16 00-0020 CARAT GOLD, C Lamb, 5-10-0 ... S P Grant
17 0000-40 NOBLE STAG (B), Mrs C Lloyd-Jones, 7-10-0 ... —
4 Little Frenchman, 5 Essex, 6 Millfield Lad, Reay's Song, 8 Apple Wine, Tom Noel, 12 Sandicliffe, Sunlit River, 16 The Solent, 20 others.

2.45 PLOVER CHASE (novices: £1,333: 3m) (10)
1 u-ufp1f KUDOS, J Blundell, 6-11-10 ... —
2 23-1030 PALACE ROYAL (D), R Tate, 8-11-10 ... Mr R Tate
3 000/102 PIRATE JACK (D), N Crump, 9-11-10 ... C Hawkins
4 0-0001p KEEP TRYING (D), W A Stephenson, 5-11-9 ... R Lamb
5 u00-424 COUNT VRONSKY, B McLean, 8-11-5 ... R Barry
6 023-4 DAVEY VIEW, G Fairbairn, 7-11-5 ... C Grant
7 p22ff FOXY PERCY, Mrs A Hamilton, 6-11-5 ... Mr L Hudson
9 00-440u PATIENT KNIGHT, R Cross, 8-11-5 ... K Whyte
12 00004-f SHARP WORD, I Jordon, 6-11-5 ... J Allen
14 fp TARTAN SPECIAL, Mrs C Lloyd-Jones, 6-11-5 ... —
11-4 Pirate Jack, 7-2 Keep Trying, 4 Davey View, 5 Count Vronsky, 6 Palace Royal, 10 Kudos, 14 Foxy Percy, 18 others.

3.15 SNIPE HURDLE (Amateurs: novices: £797: 2m 120yd) (14)
2 uu104 GLORY SNATCHER, G Richards, 5-11-11 ... K Dalby 7
5 BRACELET BELLE, Mrs C Lloyd-Jones, 6-11-4 ... Mrs C Lloyd-Jones 7
6 f CARAVAN CENTRE, R Barr, 9-11-4 ... T Smith 7
7 0090- DON'T WAIT, W A Stephenson, 5-11-4 ... E McIntyre 4
8 00b000- HEADMERE, D Moorhead, 5-11-4 ... —
10 000000- KIRKBY LAD, W Tinning, 7-11-4 ... Mrs J Tinning 7
13 0p/ MINTO GLEN, J Storey, 7-11-4 ... C Storey 7
15 PERFECT FIT, J Jeffrey, 7-11-4 ... T Jeffrey 7
16 00f/ SENSING, M Naughton, 5-11-4 ... T G Dun
17 000p/4/ SIRENE RIVER, W J Smith, 7-11-4 ... —
19 1/00000 SPIDER PEARL, J Hurst, 6-11-4 ... W Hurst 7
20 p000- TARISMA, I Jordan, 5-11-4 ... Mrs G Simpson 7
23 02 BARRIER REEF, T Tate, 4-11-0 ... T Tate 4
29 p0p-p0 RUTHELEN (B), D Chapman, 4-11-0 ... T Walford 7
4-5 Glory Snatcher, 12-8 Barrier Reef, 8 Don't Wait, 12 others.

Newcastle selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
12.45 Barryphilips Disco. 1.15 Go Lightly. 1.45 Little Bay. 2.15 Reay's Song. 2.45 Pirate Jack. 3.15 Barrier Reef.

Taunton results

Going: good.

12.45 (12.48) BICKNOLLER HURDLE (Div. I: novices: £414: 2m)
SOMERS HEIR, b g, by Will Somers-Treasan (G Dudfield) 6-10-10 ... R Hyett (5-1) 1
The Cobbly Stone ... R Hoare (Evns fav) 2
Little Sisko ... Mr J Frost (33-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 53p; places 14p, 14p, 30p. Dual F: 21p. CSF: 94p. D Wintle at Westbury on Severn. Sh hd, 15l. Princess Costar (11-1) 4th. 17 ran. NR: Swing The Axe.

1.15 (1.18) CHARD HURDLE (Selling: £437: 2m 3f)
IGLOO FIRE, ch g, by Firestreak-Igloo Maid (C Harden) 8-12-3 Mr R Treloggan (33-1) 1
Masoums ... C Brown (7-2) 2
Dancing Grey ... J Williams (33-1) 3
TOTE: Win, £1.38; places 40p, 17p, £1.14. Dual F: £3.94. CSF: £13.00. Mrs E Harden at Axbridge. 1l, 8l. Batnac Prince 3-1 fav. Testing Times (8-1) 4th. 20 ran. Winner bought in for 700 guineas.

1.45 (1.47 AXMOUTH CHASE (Novices: £935: 2m)
WATER ROCK, b g, by Ulique—Boolaben (J Thorne 6-11-7 ... R Hoare (5-1) 1
Furry Rock ... Mr J Bryan (6-1) 2
Insulation ... C Brown (25-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 87p, places 24p, 51p, 34p. Dual F: £2.45. CSF £4.65, J Thorne at Bridgwater. 1½l, 8l. Fire Drill (9-4 Fav) 4th. 18 ran.

2.15 (2.17) CORFE CHASE (Handicap: £827: 2m)
REGENTS GARDEN b g, by Prince Regent—Artic Lace (M Donnelly) 9-11-3 ... C Bourne (5-1) 1
Lodge's Fortune ... N Coleman (5-1) 2
Sparkling Tarqua ... C McMahon (6-2 Fav) 3
TOTE: Win, 58p, places 28p, 21p, Dual F 45p. CSF £2.89. A Andrews at Taunton. sh hd, 1l. St Sotton Boy (5-1) 4th, 7 ran. NR: Tom Sooley, Mouldy Old Dough.

2.45 (2.47) KINGSTON-ST-MARY CHASE (Handicap: £1,514: 3m 1f)
RICHMEDE, gr g, by Runnymede—Scilly Isles (G Rayed) 8-11-2 R. Champion (9-4 fav) 1
Packs Fella ... Mrs J Hembrow (4-1) 2
Three of Diamonds ... P Leach (20-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 30p; places, 12p, 20p. Dual F: 64p. CSF £1.10. M. Stephen, at Taunton. 3l, 25l. General Election (6-1), 4th. 7 ran.

3.15 (3.17) BICKNOLLER HURDLE (Div II: Novice: £414: 2m).
SKAT, b f, by Sharpen Up—Heat of Gold (M Pipe) 4-11-7 ... P Leach (4-1) 1
Gold Racer G McCourt ... (9-1) 2
Wild Rye B de Haan ... (4-1) 3
TOTE: Win, 25p; places, 14p, 20p, 19p. Dual F: £8.11. CFS: £3.71. M. Pipe, at Wellington. 10l, 3l. York Terrace (11-4 fav). 4th. 12 ran.

PLACEPOT: Not won. Pool of £960.95 carried forward to Kempton today.

Rugby Union

Can Wallabies do the trick for Wales?

By Gerald Davies

Earlier in the season, before the Australians, John Dawes, the Welsh director of coaching, was quoted as saying that if what he had heard and read about the tourists' exciting brand of rugby was true he would not mind if they beat Wales. It might reawaken an adventurous spirit that has lain dormant for the last couple of seasons and force Welsh rugby to reconsider its attitude and methods.

Mr Dawes believes that because the fear of losing is so great these days anything that alters that attitude must be good. But after seeing the Australians it is doubtful whether he still holds those views.

The Australians have so far forsaken their open style of play for the sake of expediency. That fear of losing may dominate their minds, too. The success of the tour, they argue, will be assessed on results in the internationals and they are aware that the critical factors are to cut down on errors and to ensure that they have a comprehensive cover.

They may also argue that for a long tour they do not have enough players of international class to continue with the expansive game. British playing conditions, too, may have precluded them from pursuing their natural style.

Their declared aim, therefore, as with all touring sides, is to win the international matches. If they do so, and the Irish scalp is already safely tucked away, they will have beaten New Zealand, France and the best the British Isles can offer, in the space of a year.

There are similarities between the present side and that of 1966 captained by John Thornett, a side which went some way to establishing a standard by which all other Australian teams would be judged. In that year, too, they did not have a strong scrummaging unit.

They did, however, have an efficient back row and a remarkable pair of half backs, Catchpole and Hawthorn, who could transform indifferent possession into a perfectly useful and decisive ball fo rthe rest of the three-quarters. So it is with the present side.

The essential difference is that, whereas in 1966 their first principle was to attack and counter-attack, at present it is for sound defence. Loane and Cornelson we already knew about and Poidevin, who has had an excellent tour, completes a tireless back row. In addition, the inclusion of Shaw, who is a back row forward by inclination, in the second row gives a further depth to their defensive line-up in the loose.

Hipwell is a master craftsman at scrum half, which is not surprising as he must have learned a good deal as Catchpole's understudy in 1966. Thereafter, beautiful footballer though McLean is, the tendency is to kick to gain ground.

It is here that the Wallabies have disappointed those who originally expected them to be a refreshing new influence. Regrettably, circumstances may have dictated and forced them to accept a more cautious approach. To underline the success of this no side has scored a try against them since Munster.

It is an immense challenge to Wales, who managed to score only two tries themselves in five matches last season, to overcome a team which may not set the world alight but knows its objectives and is practical and efficient.

Prince Andrew to meet a prince among wings

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

When Prince Andrew attends the 100th University Match between Oxford and Cambridge at Twickenham next Tuesday, the first hand he will shake, after the National Anthem has been played, will be that of C. N. Lowe (Cambridge and England), who is now in his 91st year.

"Kit" Lowe played three times against Oxford in 1911-12-13 and won 25 consecutive caps on a wing for his country between 1913 and 1923, when he was on the losing side on only three occasions. He was in four grand slam sides for England, in 1913, 1914, 1921 and 1923.

His total of 18 tries remains an English record. In 1914, before the England-Ireland match at Twickenham, he was presented to Prince Andrew's great grandfather, King George V. By the end of the First World War, in which he served in the Royal Flying Corps, he had been awarded the MC and DFC.

The oldest surviving rugby Blue is Reg Honey (Oxford) who will celebrate his 95th birthday in South Africa today, but whose health is not robust enough to allow him to travel over for the match.

At least 460 people—105 of them official guests but the rest old Blues—will attend a celebratory banquet at the Hilton Hotel after the match. Thanks to the generosity of the sponsors, whose Bowring Bowl goes to the successful captain, everyone at the dinner will receive an inscribed tankard and a miniature Gilbert match ball as souvenirs of an historic occasion.

Speaking at a lunch yesterday given by the Bowring Group in the City of London, Ken Spence, a former Oxford captain and Scottish international scrum half, said how delighted he was that at least 50 of the old Blues were coming from overseas: "We are delighted by the response. We shall achieve 74 per cent of a realistic target, which is very satisfying. The senior Blue at the dinner will be R. Cove-Smith, of Cambridge and England, who first played against Oxford in 1919."

Mr Spence is one of the three organizers of the match and dinner arrangements, the others being the Cambridge Blues, Roger Michaelson, who captained his university and played for Wales, and Bob Collier. They are pleased to confirm that a special souvenir match programme—the largest of its kind produced in this country—will run to 80 pages.

For Prince Andrew the occasion will be a first public appearance in his own right. At the dinner, he will be proposing, in his first public speech, the toast of the two university rugby clubs, to which Peter Robbins (Oxford and England) will reply. Andy Mulligan (Cambridge, Ireland and British Lions) will propose the health of the guests, with a response from Cliff Morgan (Wales and British Lions). Lord Wakefield of Kendal (Cambridge and England) will preside.

Cox wins first cap against Wales

The Australian wing, Michael O'Connor, withdrew yesterday from the team to meet Wales at Cardiff tomorrow. O'Connor injured his right knee against Leicester, he will be replaced by Mitchell Cox, aged 22, who will be winning his first cap.

O'Connor played against Ireland on the right wing 11 days ago and scored the only try of the match. His normal position is outside centre—which is also Cox's usual spot.

The lock, Duncan Hall, also failed a fitness test on a bruised ankle. He will be replaced on the bench by Steve Williams. Mick Martin joins the replacements in place of Cox.

O'Connor had had an unlucky tour with injuries. He broke a finger in the game against Wales "B" five weeks ago and missed several games.

The Aberavon prop, Paul Knight, has been added to the Welsh replacements because Clive Williams (Swansea) has pulled out with back trouble.

Investors given right of seat in new stand

By Peter West

The Scottish Rugby Union have announced their proposals for financing the building of a new East stand, at Murrayfield, with a covered seating capacity for over 10,000 spectators, at a cost of £3.15m. Construction will start after the Scotland and France international next March, and should be complete by the time Scotland play Ireland at home in January, 1983.

An investment prospectus has been circulated to all member clubs as well as to commerce, industry and institutions, whose support the president, Fraser MacAllister, is confident the SRU can attract.

Investors will have the right to purchase, for every multiple of £400 invested, one reserved seat in the central section of the new stand for each international match, at Murrayfield, with effect from next season. Such investments will be payable either wholly by December 31, 1981, or half by that date with the remaining half due on or before September 30, 1982.

Repayment of each investment will be made by the SRU at the rate of £20 per season for every multiple of £400 invested. This will be achieved by granting a credit of £20 per investment against the price of tickets purchased in each season for all designated matches until the year 2002. Investors (or their beneficiaries) will have first option to participate in any similar scheme which may be launched at the end of the 20-year investment. Those investing in multiples of four units (totalling £1,600) will be entitled to free car parking.

Completion of the new stand will provide Murrayfield with an overall seating capacity of 26,273. The total ground capacity will be reduced to 60,201.

Lancashire, after beating Gloucestershire in the county championship semi-final last Saturday, will be unchanged for their match against the Australians at Vale of Lune on December 9.

For the record

Golf

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa open tournament: Leading scores (South Africa unless stated): 131: I Mosey (GB), 65, 66. 135: J Fourie, 69, 66. 136: W Humphreys (GB), 65, 71. 139: P Simmons, 69, 70; J Dlamini (Swaziland), 71, 68; M Bright, 67, 72. 140: J Hawkes, 69, 71; D Watson, 70, 70; D Hayes, 69, 71; M McNulty, 69, 71. (Rain halted play before all second rounds completed).

BARCELONA: Invitation tournament, second-round leaders (Spanish unless stated): 131: J M Canizares, 67, 64. 136: M Pinero, 71, 65; S Ballesteros, 68, 68; J Anglada, 71, 65. 137, G Garrido, 71, 66; B Gallacher (GB), 70, 67; A Gallardo, 67, 70; E Rodriguez, 66, 71. Other British scores: 139: T Horton 72, 67. 141: J Bennett, 71, 70. 142: D Talbot, 70, 72. 144: G Manson 67, 77.

MANILA: President Marcos Tournament: first round: 68, Ho Ming Chung (Taiwan); 70, B Langer (WG); 72, Kuo Chie Hsiung (Taiwan), R Lavares (Philippines). F Beard (US).

Badminton

HAARLEM: Thomas Cup: Scotland beat Netherlands 9—0. Results: (Scottish names first): C Gallagher beat U Santosa 18—12, 18—4; G Hamilton beat R Ridder 15—11, 15—7; A White and D Sheylor beat Ridder and B Leidelmeyer 15—7, 15—9; W Gilliland and D Travers beat I Kristanto and F van Dongen 15—1, 15—4; D Travers beat L Coene 18—16, 15—6; C Gallagher beat R Ridder 15—11, 15—9; G Hamilton beat U Santosa 9—15, 15—14, 15—12; W Gilliland and Travers beat Ridder and H Leidelmeyer 15—2, 15—10; A White and D Sheylor beat I Kristanto and F van Dongen 15—9, 15—9.

Baseball

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: New Jersey Nets 105, Cleveland Cavaliers 106; San Antonio Spurs 106, Philadelphia 76-ers 101; Boston Celtics 115; Detroit Pistons 114; Portland Trail Blazers 112, Kansas City Kings 107; Utah Jazz 114, Dallas Mavericks 103; Golden State Warriors 120, Chicago Bulls 119; Seattle Supersonics 104, Los Angeles Lakers 96.

Today's fixtures

SECOND DIVISION: Cardiff City v Derby County (7.30).
FOURTH DIVISION: Colchester United v Blackpool (7.30).
RUGBY UNION: Newport v Bristol (7.15); Pontypridd v Sale (7.0).
SNOOKER: Coral UK professional championship (at Preston Guild Hall).
SKATING: British championships, at Richmond.
SQUASH RACKETS: British closed championship (at Abbeydale SRC, Sheffield).
HOCKEY: Courage Indoor International championship (at Crystal Palace NSC).

Not just pretty patterns as synchronized swimming lives down the Esther Williams' image

Brains, beauty and perfectionism

I happened to see it first of all on television, and I thought they were drowning. I know TV is hard up for new sports these days, desperate to keep our attention till the football comes on, but it seemed a bit cruel to be filming some poor girls obviously in difficulty in the water, their bodies slowly sinking to the bottom, even if they were pretty.

Not drowning but waving? On closer observation, I could see they were making strange signals with their arms and legs. Perhaps it was all deliberate. All the same, what a boring spectacle. Who would want to do that, far less watch . . .

This is the sort of outsider's attitude which the girls of synchronized swimming — or such is the title of their esoteric sport—have had to put up with for the last twenty years or so. Now, at long last, they have broken through. Synchronized swimming will be part of the next Olympics in 1984, for the first time ever.

Britain happens to be good at it, which is even more surprising for those who have never heard of the sport. In September, Carolyn Wilson won three gold medals at the European championships in Split. With her partner, Caroline Holmyard, she is hoping for some world medals at the World Championships to be held next year in Ecuador.

The two girls were practising last week at the Copthall Pool, in North London, their first session together since their triumphs in Split, where they won the duet gold. If you think watching their movements on television can be boring, watching them *training* for such movements can be positively soporific.

It does need an expert eye to appreciate many of their figure exercises, but then that is the case with figure skating or gymnastics. Now, thanks to television, millions of people understand and enjoy it.

Synchronized swimming is a bit like those two sports, combined perhaps with ballet. The object is to make perfect body patterns, either singly or in teams, on top or underneath the water. In a competition, you have firstly to do a series of set figures. There are 36 in all, but just before an event, the names of six are drawn from a hat. That is the compulsory part and even the most ardent synchro swimmer will admit that it can be very boring for the layman to watch.

Then come the routines, which are much more glamorous. The girls wear a fancier swimming costume, often with sequins, and put on make-up (water-proof, of course) and do their hair rather more exotically (kept in place with gelatine) and then perform their own free-expression movements to music (using waterproofed loudspeakers, otherwise they couldn't hear, could they).

"I haven't met anyone who doesn't enjoy watching the routines," said Carolyn. "We always do a Christmas show at our club and people absolutely love it. Really, I've never met a disappointed person yet."

Carolyn is 22 and comes from Farnborough, Hampshire. Her father is a metallurgist and there are no swimmers in the family. At five, she was sent to ballet lessons, as her mother hoped to give her poise and gracefulness. "It didn't work. At five, I wasn't very co-ordinated."

It was not till she was 13 that she took up synchronized swimming, mainly because there happened to be a club locally who were looking for volunteers to try it out. By the age of 17, she was in the British team.

At the same time, she was continuing with her A levels. One of the interesting things about synchro swimming is that it attracts intelligent girls.



Upside down life of the synchronized swimmer leaves room for manoeuvre.

Almost all of the eight women in the GB team have good A levels, if not degrees. They all say the sport needs great mental concentration. Having 36 figures to swat up, then being given only six at random to do, does sound very much like an exam.

Carolyn passed biology (A), chemistry (B) and physics (C) at A levels, and went on to take a top second in botany and zoology at Bristol University. She graduated in the summer and has been unemployed since, existing on a Sports Aid Foundation grant, concentrating on her swimming. "All my lecturers told me I couldn't do both things. I wanted to prove them wrong and also do it for the sport, to show you can swim and get a degree. It did ruin my social life, of course."

Doing six hours a day training resulted last year in her skin peeling off in strips and the hairs on her legs coming out. Now she has found anti-chlorine creams from America which help, as well as conditioners and moisturisers.

Most training sessions begin at 6 am, which is the only time they can use a local pool before the public arrive. At Copthall last week, they had to be out by nine o'clock. You need utter devotion to put up with that sort of life; all on your own, week after week. Her boy friend was a swimmer, so at least he appreciates her problems.

Caroline Holmyard is 19 and comes from a swimming family in Bristol. Her mother was a synchro swimmer and Caroline's earliest memory is of sitting in her pushchair by the poolside while her mother trained. She started at the age of five and was in the Junior British team at 14. She also stuck at her A levels, getting classical civilisation (A), English (B) and geography (B). She is now in her second year at University College, London, reading Geography.

Carolyn had spent the previous night at Caroline's London flat. "We watched the *Nine O'Clock News* together in bed, then went to sleep. "They are close friends, as well as swimming partners, but by living in different towns they only manage to train together every second weekend. They both envy the North Americans, who are still the leaders in the field, though Carolyn did beat a top Canadian.

"Over there, thanks to sports scholarships, and sporting universities, your sporting life comes first, and they organize your academic life round it. Here, everything has to be fitted in. You have to be really determined to carry on."

Caroline also has a regular boy friend, an accountant. "Boy friends have to realize they take second place, which is very hard for them." So why on earth do they do it, putting up with such obstacles and hardships?

"I have a chance," said Carolyn, "of doing something in anything else. If I don't do it to perfection. If I don't do it now, and see it through, I'll regret it all my life. I am by nature a perfectionist. I can spend three hours working on one little thing, getting the toes right, or the arm at the exact angle. When I do it, it's a brilliant feeling, even though I know only a tiny amount of people will realize I've done it."

One of the standard synchro figures is to remain in the water completely vertical, but upside down. Most people, even experienced synchro swimmers, tend to move backwards. Carolyn is one of the world's best, not just doing it exactly, but in getting her legs high out of the water, half way up her thighs.

Carolyn is also extremely good at staying under the water. In one of her routines, she is under for 62 seconds. It takes great strength to do this, as you are moving all the time, not just lying there holding your breath. It is only when you look closely at the girls that you realize that they wear nose clips, little plastic coated bits of wire which close the nose. (50p each, made by Laxto, for those who fancy trying out a few tricks).

All breathing is done through the mouth. When you're upside down underwater for such long spells, the air would rush out of your nose, and in would come the water. It could be rather nasty. "It's a vital piece of equipment. Without it, you would get awful sinus trouble."

There are few male synchro swimmers so far. It is almost an all-girl sport. "Legs matter so much", said Carolyn. "I wouldn't want to look at *men's* legs, would you.

"That's a *bit* sexist", said Caroline. "I *would* like to see men coming into the sport. I used to think that the idea of a male ballet dancer was weird, till I saw Nureyev. Men would bring in different qualities. They would do it to emphasize their strength and different physiques. Do it in a masculine way."

So far, the East Europeans have not yet developed any champions—after the United States, Canada, and Japan, Great Britain is fourth in the world—but they are reported to be working on it, for the next Olympics. A Russian team tried to film Carolyn when she was training in Split last year, to have a record of her routines, but she stopped them. With luck, she will reach her peak next year for the world championships.

What you must never do with synchro-swimmers is make any jokes about Esther Williams. This is presumably partly how it all began, but today's high-powered hard training, highly motivated girls dismiss all that as "acrobatic art."

"We're a *sport*", said Carolyn, "Not an art form. We do more than pretty patterns in the water. It's been a long battle to persuade people, but getting into the Olympics should make us be taken seriously at last."

Hunter Davies

MOTORING by Peter Waymark

Samba may restore Talbot's image

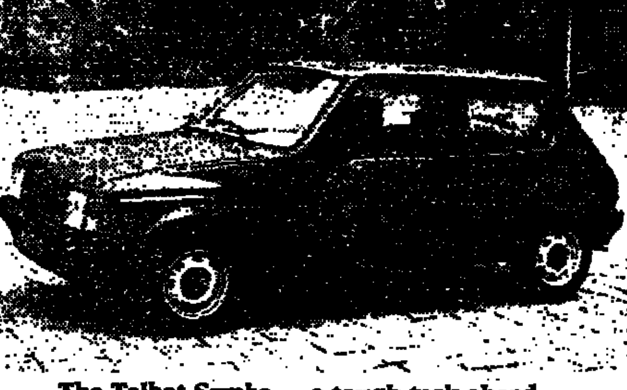
The trouble with Talbot is not its cars but its image, or rather the lack of one. The name chosen by Peugeot for the former Chrysler subsidiary which it acquired in 1978 has still not registered enough with the motoring public.

To talk of Renault or Volvo or Citroen is to summon up the idea of a certain type of car; the marque names are a shorthand for the customer's perception of the model range — Renault compact and practical, Volvo safe and durable, Citroen advanced and stylish.

Talbot's task, as it struggles to hold a modest 5 per cent of the British market, is to establish a similar identity. That it has failed to do so up to now is not necessarily the fault of the models: the Alpine and Horizon, after all, were both good enough to win Car of the Year awards and the big Tagora has also been widely praised.

Yet the parts do not add up to a whole, as Mr George Turnbull, chairman of Talbot in Britain, is the first to admit. The message he will be trying to get across in the next few months will be one that equates Talbot with value for money; no other manufacturer, he claims, can offer such a fuel efficient range of cars.

Mr. Turnbull should be helped in this endeavour when the new French-built Samba is launched in Britain in February, for the official fuel consumption figures for the 1124cc GL model show that it comfortably beats any car available: 48.7 mpg in urban driving, 61.4 mpg at a steady 56 mph and 44.8 mpg at 75 mph.



The Talbot Samba — a tough task ahead

The Samba will not come a moment too soon for Talbot which has been without a contender in the small car sector since the closure of Linwood and the consequent ending of Sunbeam production. At its peak, the Sunbeam was taking 2 per cent of new car sales. Talbot hopes that the Samba will do at least as well. That suggests 24,000 registrations in 1982 and 30,000 in a full year.

Given Peugeot's policy of seeking maximum rationalization while preserving the separate marques, it comes as no surprise that the Samba should make use of existing components and body panels. In fact, it bears a close resemblance to the three-door version of the Peugeot 104, both under the skin (same overhead camshaft engines, gearbox and suspension) and in the skin itself, for the doors tailgate, bonnet and a part of the front wings are common to both models.

It is no surprise, either, to find that the Samba follows the same basic design as rivals like the BL Metro, Ford Fiesta and Volkswagen Polo in having an engine mounted transversely and driving the front wheels and a rear seat that can be folded down to increase luggage space.

The Samba does not, however, employ the Metro's useful split rear seat facility and although, at 11½ feet, it is four inches longer than the British car, it is less roomy in the back. Tall adults will find their heads hard up against the roof. With the rear seat in use, the boot is small and suffers from the intrusion of the suspension units.

The all-independent suspension inherited from Peugeot guarantees an excellent ride, combining the ability to absorb rough surfaces with good damping to contain wallow. The seats, though lacking support at the side, are, in the French manner, comfortably soft.

The rack and pinion steering is light and accurate, if a little low geared for parking. Handling is not as taut as on the German Polo, but by French standards there is only moderate body roll on corners and the car sticks well to the road. The gearbox has a springy feel, acceptable once you get used to it.

In designing the Samba, Talbot's engineers devoted much effort to reducing noise. The engine is impressively quiet and the car can be cruised happily at 70mph; wind noise is low as well, although the car I tried produced an annoying whistle around the door seals. Some tyre thump is noticeable on broken surfaces.

There are three engine sizes: 954 cc, 1124 cc and 1360 cc. The middle one, as I have indicated, is the fuel economy champion, thanks to a good power to weight ratio and high gearing. The 1124 is not, however, particularly quick. Acceleration to 60 mph through the gears takes 18 seconds. You often have to drop down to third for overtaking.

The 954 cc version in only slightly slower, yet its consumption figures are significantly inferior: 39.8 mpg in urban driving, 52.3 at 56 mph and 37.2 at 75 mph.

For those wanting performance, the car to choose is the 1360 cc GLS. With 71 bhp (the others have 41 and 49), it accelerates to 60 mph in 12.5 seconds and has far more pull in top gear. Consumption is down, though, the official figures being 33.6 mpg, 51.4 and 39.2.

Talbot will also be offering the Samba in a soft top Cabriolet version, styled by Pinin Farina in Italy. It will be powered by the 1360 cc engine and have a five-speed gearbox; it should be the smallest — and, presumably cheapest — soft top in regular production.

Prices for the Samba in Britain have not yet been fixed. Talbot insists they will be competitive, and if the range were available now it would probably start at about £3,300. There will probably be a "cheap" base model, equivalent to the Fiesta Popular.

With so many other "superminis" already established in the market, the Samba, a good car though not an outstanding one, will find it difficult to break in.

Somehow the Talbot marketing team, headed by a talented ex-Ford man, Mr Todd Evans, has got to convince potential customers that the Samba is a better bet than the Metro, Fiesta, Polo, Renault 5, Fiat 127, Citroen Visa and Peugeot 104, not to mention several rivals from Japan.

The fuel consumption of the 1124 model must be a powerful selling point; the Samba also scores highly on comfort and refinement, while the Cabriolet will give the range a certain glamour. It will be interesting, when the car goes on sale here, to learn what Talbot has to say about servicing and repair costs, for miles per gallon is not the only index of economy.

Samba by the way, may not be the name used in Britain, where a corruption to Sambo could have unfortunate racial connotations. The most likely alternative is the Sunbeam, the name of the last small Talbot hatchback, while Tango, Trio and Scamp are also under consideration. But if the car proves good enough, the name should hardly matter.

My renewed acquaintance with the Astra has confirmed it as one of the leading cars in its class, where rivals include the Ford Escort, Talbot Horizon and Fiat Strada. Handling is one of its best features, being taut and responsive in the German manner and recalling that the Astra started life as the Opel Kadett.

It is nimble on corners, with little body roll, and has superb road holding. The ride is firm, and so are the seats, but the car is far from being uncomfortable.

The front-wheeled drive lay out and a cross-mounted engine means good interior space, and within a compact overall length of just over 13ft the Astra is a generous four-seater with a roomy boot which can be extended by folding down the rear seat. Unlike many hatchbacks, the tailgate extends almost to floor level.

The introduction of the 1.6 litre coincides with the start of Astra production in Britain. Originally, all the cars were imported from Opel in West Germany, but from now on most will be supplied from Vauxhall's plant at Ellesmere Port on Merseyside. The cars still have a high German content, including engines, gearboxes, suspension units, and body panels; but assembly in Britain is at least keeping jobs that would otherwise have been lost.

Astra production at Ellesmere Port is building up to 60,000 units a year, which means that sales of the car should almost double from the likely 1981 total of around 32,000. That in turn, should put Vauxhall on the way towards its target of increasing its market share (including Opel models) from the present 8.5 per cent to 16 per cent by 1985.

Meanwhile, the new Cavalier, for which demand has been far outstripping the company's ability to produce, has helped Vauxhall in November to its best monthly penetration, 10.7 per cent, for three years.

Volleyball

Norway willing to stage event for men

By Paul Harrison

Following the success of the first North Sea Cup tournament in Stavanger, Norway, last weekend, there are plans not only to continue the women's competition but also to introduce a similar one for men.

The cup is confined to the smaller north European volleyball nations, with Denmark, England and Scotland joining the hosts, Norway. The Danes, who won the inaugural competition narrowly from the Scots, have already offered to host the 1983 women's tournament.

England, who were third in Norway, have agreed to hold the competition in 1985 and Scotland hope to do likewise in 1987, but this will depend on the success of approaches which will have to be made to the Scottish Sports Council for financial help.

Moves are afoot to begin a similar tournament for men's teams, there being general agreement that there is a need for this level of competition among the middle order of west European nations for both men's and women's teams.

The Norwegians have already indicated their willingness to host the first such men's competition, in 1983, and the other federations, the English, Scottish and Danish, will be considering the proposals. Both tournaments would be called the North Sea Cup, and sponsorship would be sought for them.

The Danes, who won the tournament on set difference from Scotland, were worthy victors, and the Scots, on their first overseas trip for four years, were satisfied with their performance, particularly their 3—1 victory over England. England can take consolation from the fact that they were the only side to beat the winners, 3—1. The hosts, with a young team, did not win a match but retained their enthusiasm.

The event was covered on Norwegian television, giving some idea of the relative status of the sport there and in Britain.

Squash rackets

Two likely pretenders to Barrington's throne

By Rex Bellamy
Squash rackets Correspondent

The British national championship, sponsored by Thorntons the confectioners, begins this evening at Abbeydale Park, near Sheffield. Next Thursday the winner will collect £1,425 of the £8,800 prize money. Jonah Barrington, who achieved a remarkable triumph last year at the age of 39, cannot defend his title because he is regaining match fitness after surgery. His successor will almost certainly be either Gawain Briars (Norfolk) or Philip Kenyon (Lancashire).

Briars won the inaugural championship in 1979, in Barrington's absence overseas, and was runner-up last year. Barrington's toughest match was against Kenyon who led him by two games to one in the semi-final. A year earlier Kenyon had been stopped in the same round by Ian Robinson (Yorkshire) who is again in the same half of the draw. Kenyon will also be wary of his prospective third round match with another Yorkshireman Christy Willstrop, the new under 23 champion.

Briars, Kenyon and Robinson must all be slightly apprehensive about their ability to regain physical and emotional peaks so soon after the world championship in which they were competing on the other side of the Atlantic little more than a week ago. Briars looks to have the easiest run to the final but Kenyon's form could benefit from sharper challenges.

The seedings suggest that the last eight will line up as follows: Briars v Ashley Naylor (Yorkshire), David Pearson (Lancashire) v his brother, Brian Pearson (Yorkshire), John Le Lievre (Guernsey) v Robinson, and Geoff Williams (Sussex) v Kenyon.

The Pearson brothers were born at Kendal but have since given their allegiance to roses of different colours.

The 16 seeds cover a wide range of ages from John Easter and Bryan Patterson, both closing in fast on their 36th birthdays, to Jamie Hickox, aged 17, and Willstrop, 18. The illness of Barry Watkins earned Hickox promotion to a seeding place and Tim Ayling came in to fill the place Hickox originally drew. Compared with last year there are five newcomers to the seedings and these include three teenagers: Hickox, Willstrop and Danny Lee, aged 19.

Abbeydale Park, on the edge of the Peak District national park, has been a distinguished and congenial location for national championships since 1969, promoting four British open championships and a succession of events under the sponsorship of Thorntons: first an amateur invitation tournament, then the national amateur championship and since 1979 the national championship which swiftly acquired status through the abolition of distinctions between professionals and amateurs.

All this has led to the slick organization that comes only through experience. But the national championship would not be the joyous occasion it is but for the amiably enlightened attitude of the sponsors and the club. The tournament has achieved an inimitable blend of highly skilled competitive validity and the kind of social ambiance in which everyone has fun. From the quarter-finals onwards, every seat has already been sold.

CUMBERLAND CUP: First division: Ealing 2, Sundridge Park 3; Coolhurst 4, Wimbledon 1; Cumberland 1, Woodford Wells 4; Herga 3, Wanstead 2.

Support for gymnasts

The British Amateur Gymnastic Association announced in London yesterday a £40,000 sponsorship over five years to be known as the Philishave Gymnastics Award Scheme for men and boys. The scheme will operate in eight stages from a boy's first step to the Olympics, with certificates for passing at every stage.

Tennis

Confidence puts Mrs Cawley into last eight

Melbourne, Dec 3.—Evonne Cawley discovered her best form since beginning her comeback when she defeated Mima Jausovec, of Yugoslavia, 6—3, 6—1 in the Australian Open championship at Kooyong today.

Mrs Cawley is one of only three non-Americans to reach the quarter-finals and tomorrow she plays Martina Navratilova, the third seed, who beat Kathy Jordan 7—5, 3—6, 6—2.

The defending champion, Hana Mandlikova, ended the giant-killing run of her 16-year-old Czechoslovak compatriot, Helena Sukova, with a 6—2, 6—1 victory.

THIRD ROUND: A Jaeger (US) beat S Barker (GB) 6—4, 7—5; W. Turnbull (Australia) beat B Bunge (US) 3—6, 6—2, 6—1; M Navratilova (US) beat K Jordan (US) 7—5, 3—6, 6—2; E Cawley (Australia) beat M Jausovec (Yugoslavia) 6—3, 6—1; H Mandlikova (Czechoslovakia) beat H Sukova (Czechoslovakia) 6—2, 6—1.

BARCELONA, Spain: America beat Europe, 9—5 (American names first): J McEnroe beat I Lendl, 4—6, 7—5, 6—1; G Mayer beat Y Noah, 7—5, 6—3; V Gerulaitis beat M Orantes, 7—6, 6—1; G Vilas beat A Panatta, 5—3, 6—3.

More champions for Birmingham

World Championship Tennis, the Dallas-based promoters, announced yesterday that they had completed the field for the eight-team doubles tournament to be sponsored by Barratts, the builders, at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from January 5 to 10, Rex Bellamy writes.

The last three pairs to accept invitations are the French champions, Heinz Gunthardt, and Balazs Taroczy, the United States claycourt champions, Kevin Curren and Steve Denton, and Bruce Manson and Brian Teacher, whose biggest success this year occurred in the Association of Tennis Professionals event at La Quinta, California.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

". . . GOD is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."—Psalm 46:1.

BIRTHS

BEACROFT.—On 2nd December, 1981, to Claire (nee Magee) and John—a daughter (Fiona Alison Claire), sister to Richard and Monica.
BOXER.—On November 20, in London, to Philip and Heather (nee Harley Davies)—a daughter, sister for Bryony and Christopher.
CADWALLADER.—On 3rd December, to Mary (nee Cushing) and Selke—a daughter (Estelle Louise).
DUNN.—On 1st December, 1981, at Queen Mary's, Roehampton, to Miranda (nee Armstrong) and Richard—a daughter (Pippa), a sister for Oliver.
FRANCIS.—On November 23rd, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, to Penelope (nee Fairfax-Crone) and Richard—a son (Jonathan Roland Fairfax).
HOLFORD WHITE.—On November 22, in Brussels to Laura (nee Takmenev) and Colin—a daughter (Natasha Carol Alexis).
HOLMES.—On 2nd December, at West London Hospital, to Rosie (nee Smallwood) and Andrew—a son (Nicholas), a brother for Lucy.
LATTER.—On 23rd November, at Pembury Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, to Julia (nee Tibbs) and Christopher—a son (Matthew Douglas).
O'LOGHLEN.—On December 1st, at Lincoln, to Sue (nee Wolstenholme) and Walter—a daughter (Laura Claire).
PETTITT.—On December 2nd at Heath Road Hospital, Ipswich to Sally (nee Wyn-Roberts) and Simon—a boy (Nicholas Carey).
RADFORD.—On November 26th, at the Westminster Hospital, to Diana (nee Buckland), wife of Roger—the gift of a daughter (Laura Mary).
TALBOT-PONSONBY.—On 3rd December at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, to Robina (nee Bruce) and Nigel—a son.
UPTON.—On November 24th, 1981, at Cuckfield Hospital, to Diana (nee Arnold) and John—a son (Jonathan Michael).
WILLIAMS.—On November 28th, to Susanna (nee Cryer) and Hugh—a son (Alexander Hugh Felix).
WYLD.—On 30th November to Julia (nee Godwin) and Jonathan—a son (William Thomas Whitcliffe).

BIRTHDAY

CLIFFORD L. PLATT. — Best wishes on your Birthday.

DEATHS

BUGLER.—On December 2nd, Arthur Robert Bugler, O.B.E., aged 79 years, of Alverstoke and Lee-on-Solent, husband of the late Ivy and father of Robert and the late Jean Seaward. Service at Porchester Crematorium on Wednesday, December 9th at 11.00 a.m. Family flowers only please, donations may be sent to the Victory Museum, R N Dockyard, Portsmouth.
CUTHILL.—On 2nd December at the London Hospital, James, dearest husband of Mary Cuthill and beloved father of Innes of 127 Hampstead Way, NW11. Funeral service at Golders Green Crematorium on Tuesday, December 8th at 3.30 p.m. (West Chapel). No flowers by request.
DAVIS.—On 30th November, 1981, Ethel Elizabeth, of West Pimperne Farm, Blandford, aged 79 years, beloved wife of the late Arthur Davis and dear mother of Rosamond, Muriel and Lucy.
DEDRICK.—On December 2nd, 1981, peacefully at Brome House, Doris Harriott, beloved wife of the late Willie Emerson Dedrick. Funeral service at St. Mary the Virgin, West Malling, 11.30 a.m., Monday, 7th December. Flowers to Brome House.
KIRWAN-TAYLOR.—On December 2nd, 1981, peacefully, Harold George Kirwan-Taylor, F.R.C.S., late of St George's Hospital, London, S.W.1, aged 86. Funeral to be arranged. No flowers by his request.
LEADER, S. H. C.—On 30th November, peacefully in hospital. Funeral arrangements, 2.30, 9th December, Parish Church, Latchingdon, Essex. Flowers to Stammers Funeral Services, 11 Queens St., Southminster, Essex.
MADDRELL.—On November 31, 1981, John David, aged 40, beloved third son of Barbara and the late Hugh Maddrell. At rest.
McLEAN.—On 1st December, 1981, peacefully in Sherborne Hospital, Doreen Caroline, aged 66, wife of Angus Norman McLean, mother of Alistair and Lindsay, grandmother of Francesca, Tessa, Duncan and Robert. She suffered with great courage and dignity. Funeral at Yeovil crematorium Monday, 7th December at noon. Family flowers only but donations if desired to cancer research.
MUNESHWER, SOMWAROO, age 70, businessman and director of Muneshwer Ltd, Georgetown, Guyana, on 29th November, father of Eddie, Lottie, Rita, Sabita, Radhika, Leila, Sattie, Shantie and Gaytri, grandfather of 11 and greatgrandfather of Adill. Funeral has taken place in Guyana at 56, Main Street, Georgetown.
OUGHTRED, BRIAN NORMAN.—On December 2nd, 1981, of Walkington, Beverley. Beloved husband of Dadie, and father of Sara, Michael and Jane. Cremation today at Chanterlands Avenue, 9.40 a.m. Service today at Walkington Church, 3 p.m. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Walkington Church Fabric Fund, c/o E. Anderton, 11 All Hallows Road, Walkington.
PETERSON.—On 2nd December, 1981, peacefully at his home Minden, Back Street, Winsham, Chard, Somerset, Geoffrey Fraser Peterson RN Retd., aged 82 years. Funeral Service takes place Tuesday, 8th December, 2.30 p.m. at the Winsham Parish Church followed by interment. No flowers but donations in lieu if desired to The Church of England Children's Society, c/o H. Bishop & Sons, Funeral Directors, Chard, Somerset.
ROTH.—On December 2nd, in hospital, Pauline (Paula) Roth of Muswell Hill and formerly of Vienna, widow of Frank Roth. Funeral service at St Marylebone Crematorium, East End Rd, N2 on Tuesday, December 8th at 3pm. Enquiries to Cooksey and Son Ltd, 01-883 4844.
STEGHART.—On 2nd December, aged 41 years, of 6 Crispin Way, High Wycombe, Cynthia Ray, at Sobell House, Churchill Hospital, Oxford. Dear wife of Peter, and mother of Clare, Jenny and Timmy. Funeral Service at 11 a.m., at High Wycombe Parish Church, on Monday, 7th December. Flowers to David Silvey & Son, Westbourne Street, High Wycombe. Alternatively, donations for Cancer Research to Sobell House, Churchill Hospital, Oxford.
SZEKELY, MARIA, of 34 Rosary Gardens, S.W.7, on 2nd December. Funeral service at Golders Green Crematorium on Thursday, December 10th in the East Chapel at 11.20 a.m.
WOOD.—On 3rd December, 1981, at Lincoln County Hospital in her sleep, Mary Marjorie, aged 82, widow of Harry Wood. Funeral at 2.30 p.m. on 8th December at St. Peter-in-Eastgate Church, Lincoln, followed by cremation.
WOODHOUSE.—On December 3rd, suddenly at her home in Shaftesbury, Josephine Langton Woodhouse (nee Fielding) MA (Oxon) aged 72 (Newdigate prize poet Anthony Woodhouse), widow of "Doc" Arnold Woodhouse MD, of Romford, Essex and mother of Martin and Hugh. Interment of ashes at Fryerning during week commencing December 14th. For further information contact G E Johnson and Son, Shaftesbury 2113.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

MACDONALD - BUCHANAN. — A memorial service for Sir Reginald Macdonald-Buchanan, will be held at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks at noon on Tuesday, January 12th, 1982.
PATERSON.—The memorial service for James A Paterson will be held at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London, W1 on Tuesday, January 26th, 1982, at 11.30 a.m.

IN MEMORIAM

MAIN, BETTY (Betty Laroux) beloved wife of Neville Main, died December 4th, 1972.
ROBINSON, HYMAN in loving memory of my father who died 4th of December 1948. Lionel.
SAMSON.—In loving memory of Freda, who died 4th December, 1968, J.S., and P.F.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUTTON-LOVE.—Many happy returns. Please be kind and contact home, always in our anxious loving thoughts. Mum and Dad. Box No 1100 G The Times.
PUFFA are alive and well and living at 140 Walton Street. See Christmas Countdown for these and other garments available.
GARDEN HOUSE SCHOOL celebrates 30 years. Old girls and boys please telephone 730 1652.
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UNUSUAL Car Nos. For book write with reasons for owning and description to Crewes Place, Crewes Lane, Warlingham, Surrey.
CARPETS ! CARPETS ! CARPETS ! —See Resista in For Sale.
WRITER wishes to contact persons evacuated from GB to USA and Canada, ship "Duchess of York" August 1940. Ring (0527) 61945.

> **Professor Rubik**
> will be signing
> **The Magic Snake**
> AT HAMLEYS, REGENT ST., ON MONDAY, 7TH DECEMBER, BETWEEN 2.30 AND 3.30 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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But starvation is worse. Our Field Workers overseas can feed two old people for the price of a tin of pet food and the cost of a family's Christmas celebrations would go a long way to feeding all the old in a mission area. Please spare a thought for the starving elderly overseas, help us in our work and celebrate your own happy Christmas in thankfulness. £5 will provide 50 meals for the old in a village. £50 will enable us to feed old people in a mission area.

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PROFESSOR RUBIK

will be signing

THE MAGIC SNAKE

in

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CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT

ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE, Park Place, St. James's and also at 100 Princes St., Edinburgh. The elegant conference and banquet venues. Contact Banqueting Manager, 01-493 5051.

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EAST CORNWALL. Cottage for Christmas. 05030264.
CHRISTMAS, New Year, in Somerset, Quantocks thatched cottage, log fires.—Ilminster 2559.

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WANTED. Long/short to let £100-£1,000. Sheriff & Co. 229 2889.
ATTRACTIVE well furnished 2 bedroomed terrace house in Barnes, 1-3 months. 01-878 4837.
HENDON. 3 bedroomed, modern town house. Garage. C.H. Fully furnished. £105 p.w. 493 7747 (day), 206 9377 (eves.).
RUCK & RUCK. 581 1741. Quality furnished houses for long lets needed urgently and also available.
MAYFAIR & S.W.1. House and 2 flats, 4 or 2 bedrooms, furn./unfurn., £180 p.w. each. 629 9620.
PUTNEY.—Ground floor flat, 2 beds, 1 recept, k and b, washer, drier, freezer. £128 p.w. incl. C.h./c.h.w. Homeward, 01-671 2092.
WANTED. Largeish room, Islington area, by linguist/part-time clarinettist, currently student (self-contained, house trained female).—Sue, 607 0805.
MARBLE ARCH. Superb furnished bedsit, ideal area. £40/45 p.w. —262 8771.

> **Chestertons**
>
> MAYFAIR, W.1
> Super sunny little Flat in smal block. Dble. bedrm., recep., kit. & bathrm. Rent incl. Ch/chw. Service once weekly. Co. Let. Quiet Tenants. £120 p.w.
>
> DEVONSHIRE PL., W.1
> Bright, well furnished 5th flr. Flat. 3 bedrms., recep., bath. & kitchen. Lift. Avail. now 6/12 mths. Excellent value. £168 p.w.
>
> 01-629 4513

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Really lovely 7 roomed spacious self-contained flat between village and tube. 3 bedrooms, 2 receptions, bathroom, kitchen. Most elegantly and fully furnished. New gas C.H., appliances, carpets, col. T.V. £600 returnable deposit. £140 p.w. Co. let preferred.

341 0322

WHERE CAN you find a modern, spacious, 2 large bedroomed detached country house and garage with all amenities, 2 miles from Chelsea (SW4) ? C.H. and furnished, available now for 1 year or £95 p.w. 622 6270.

THE VERY BEST tenants/landlords come to us. If you are letting or wanting a good property in Kensington, Belgravia, Hampstead, or similar areas, please call now. Rents £80 p.w. to £600 p.w. for one year or more.—Birch & Co. 499 8802.

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DEVONSHIRE MEWS, W.1.—Mod. 2 double bedrooms, reception, k. & b., £160 p.w. Enhanced Ptics, 734 2202.

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MAIDA VALE.—Self contained 1 bedroom flat for rent or sale, fully furnished. £60 p.w.—Ring 01-328 5681, bleeper 6313.
WEMBLEY PARK, Nr. Tube. Beautiful spacious 2 bedroom modern flat. £75 p.w.—262 8171 after 4 p.m.
CADOGAN SQUARE. P.F. double-bedroom flat, c.h. Avail. immed. £550 p.m. Call Mrs. Tait, 491 7658.
CHEYNE WALK. Luxury flat, 2 large receptions overlooking river, fitted kitchen, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, porterage, furnished, £285 p.w. No Agents. Company let. 01-629 9496 and 2248 day: 743 2478 evenings.
NEAR SWANLEY, KENT.—Furnished self-contained wing of country house. 2 double bedrooms, large lounge/dining room, kitchen, bathroom, telephone, T.V., garage. Suitable for couple on sabbatical. Minimum 6 months from Jan 1st. £180 p.c.m. 0322 862061.

FLAT SHARING

SW11, room in house to share £25 pw.—01-352 8950.
BAYSWATER. Lady to share lux flat. £40 pw.—262 7046.
REDCLIFFE SQ, SW10. Male grad own room. £24 pw in large 3 person flat also prof female to share room, £21 pw, same flat. —Tel. 947569, Friday and Sat only.
MANOR HOUSE.—Prof. girl, own room in luxurious newly furn mixed house. colour TV. Washing/Drying machine. £25 pw excl.—568 1239, ext 11.
SOUTH WIMBLEDON, 5 mins tube, prof m/f, 24+, own large dble room in house. £100 pm excl + £50 ret deposit.—543 5560, eves.
MAIDA VALE W9, a palace ! ! 3rd and 4th needed to share large dble room. £50 pw incl.—01-286 2570 (eves).
SW17. Prof male, share well furn flat. Large own room, near tube. £90 pcm.—767 6647.
MUSWELL HILL, mature prof m/f for Victorian house in quiet location. Close bus, tube, shop and rail. Own room. £29 pw.—Tel. 631 0864, Mike Smith, day.
RICHMOND. Prof person, own room in 3 bed house. £100 pcm excl. CH. 12 mins Kew Gardens Stn, off street parking, gdn.—878 6647, after 6.
LITTLE VENICE, prof female, own room, share large lux flat (one other). £150 pcm excl.—01-552 7132, day.
BECKENHAM. Girl, 20-30, to share flat, own room. £20 p.w. excl. 650 5046.
CHELSEA.—Person to share lux. flat with exec. (rarely there). Dble. room, bath. £60 p.w. incl. 240 3255 day.
S.W.13.—M/F share flat, own room. £35 p.w. incl. 748 3126, eves.
BAYSWATER. — Prof. male for comfortable friendly mixed flat. cd. TV, own room, new carpet. Beautiful sq. £35 p.w. incl. Phone 262 2374 after 3 p.m.
FLATMATES.—313 Brompton Rd. Selective sharing 589 5491.
CONVENIENT WESTMINSTER.—19-yr-old sec seeks own room in shared flat/house.—0405 730 481 pm.
S.W.18.—Prof. man, share house, own room. £25 p.w. excl. 874 4992 evening.
CLAPHAM. Own room, female, gdn. — 223 2400 day, 622 6789 eves.
SERVICED pied-a-terre in luxury City flat. Mon.-Fri. Own cloakroom, use K. and B. £175 monthly inc. refs. 236 9280 eves. and w/ends.
KENSINGTON. Large mixed flat, own room. £150 p.c.m. inc C.H., col. TV etc. 373 1200 after 5.
S.W.5.—Spacious flat, girl to share room. Close to bus/Tube. £20 p.w. incl. C.H. 373 1500.
BATTERSEA.—Comfortable room in flat, for 24 +. £28 p.w. excl. 622 7340 (eves.).
PROFESSIONAL F. 25, seeks flat/house share, reasonably central. £15-£20 p.w.—Tel. 723 1382.
TWO FINE ROOMS, Hampstead. Separate entrance.—722 0451.

SITUATIONS WANTED

PA/CPL-IR, female, seeks challenging job in aircraft associated industry. Public/private. Hamble 5369 eve.

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Gatwick—Malaga	27 December for 3 weeks only	£56
Gatwick—Tenerife	8, 29 December, 2, 3 weeks	£66
Gatwick—Lanzarote	10 December, 1 or 2 weeks	£61
Gatwick—Las Palmas	7, 28 December, 2, 3 weeks	£66
Gatwick—Faro	27 December, 3 weeks	£46
Gatwick—Lisbon	12 December, 1, 2 weeks	£61
Gatwick—Geneva	19 December, 1 week	£56

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01-637 8382 - 01-636 6211 Air Agts.

PUBLIC NOTICES

FELSTED SCHOOL
PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF REGULATING SCHEME dated 5th August, 1938 (as amended by a Scheme dated 29th October, 1973).

NOTICE is hereby given that the Governors of Felsted School have applied to the Secretary of State for Education and Science for an order under Section 78 of the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act to modify the Scheme for the administration of the School to enable girls to be admitted to the School as boarders and, if the Governors think fit, as day pupils. The wording of the modification is as follows:

"The Scheme shall have effect with the substitution for all references therein to any boy of references to any boy or girl and the substitution for all references to boys (other than that in Clause 14, for which a reference to boys and girls shall be substituted) of references to boys or girls and related words importing the masculine gender shall accordingly be construed as including the feminine."

Copies of the draft Order and the two Foundation Schemes may be inspected in the office of the Bursar during normal office hours, and any representations concerning the proposed Order may be made to the Secretary of State within the period until 9th January, 1982. (Representations should be sent to the Legal Branch of the Department of Education and Science, Elizabeth House, York Road, London, SE1 7PH, quoting reference G.5084).

Dated this 1st day of December, 1981.

E. A. CHILDS,
Clerk to the Governors of Felsted School

H.M. LAND REGISTRY
The Walled Garden, Hurley, Maidenhead, Berks.

Application to register the freehold title to the above property has been made by M P Daly of that address.

Any objections should be addressed to Gloucester District Land Registry, Bruton Way, Gloucester, GL1 1DQ before the 18th December 1981 quoting BK121772.

CHARITY COMMISSION
CHARITY: St. Peter's School York, North Yorkshire. Scheme for the regulation of the Charity. Ref: 529,740A/1.

The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. Copies can be obtained from them at Graeme House, Derby Square, Liverpool, L2 7SB (ref: SB 529140 A/1-L3).

COMMERCIAL SERVICES

BADGES IN CLOTH for workwear or sports, 2 to 3 days despatch on most orders. Hurst & Jones Ltd, 061 366 9515.

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

LEISURE BUSINESS.—Going concern, secure lease, assets £30,000, pretax profits £40,000 per annum. £120,000. Box 1182 G, The Times.

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

AU PAIR BUREAU Piccadilly Ltd. World's largest au pair agency offers best jobs London or abroad at 87 Regent Street, W.1. 930 4757.
CHELSEA WINE BAR — provides challenging opportunity for an experienced cook to use both catering flair and initiative. The successful applicant will organise and control the kitchen and food service to provide imaginative menus for a discerning clientele. Telephone 01-739 5466.
NANNY/ EXPERIENCED NNEB—Mother's Help for 6 month old boy in Houston, Texas. Age 22-45. Must be experienced and totally responsible as mother working. Light cooking. Must drive. Non-smoker. Own room/bathroom. Other help kept. Generous free time. Inquiries to Box No. 0337 G The Times.

OVERSEAS PROPERTIES

Readers are strongly advised to seek legal advice before parting with any money or signing any agreement to acquire land or property overseas.

113,700 + ACRES (72,990 Deeded)—Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA. Substantial water, subdividable $228 per deeded acre, terms The Vaux Corp. (303) 488 2598.

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FREE travel plus £6,750. Secretary required for Italian VIP of this major American investment bank in E.C.2, varied and interesting duties. Flexible team spirited person needed as well as good Sh/Typ skills. Aged 25-30. —Ring 588 3536, Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants.

PA/AUDIO secretary £6,300 + benefits. Partner Holborn Solicitors. 405 4394.

FULLY BI-LINGUAL German/ English Secretary at West End Art Gallery.—Tel 839 3942.
LIT. AGENT. Audio Sec. (some S/H useful), c. £5,000. 21 +. Begin New Year at the heart of the publisher/author link. Covent Garden Bureau, 53 Fleet St., E.C.4. 01-353 7696.
ACCOUNTS CLERK, bought/sales ledger. 20-50. £4,500-£5,250. City and West End. Covent Garden Bureau, 53 Fleet St., E.C.4. 01-353 7696.
JUNIOR SECRETARY with good S/H for lively publishing house, with chance to learn all about production and marketing. £4,000-£4,500. Covent Garden Bureau, 53 Fleet St., E.C.4. 01-353 7696.
SECRETARIES FOR ARCHITECTS and Designers. Permanent/temporary positions. AMSA Specialist Agency. 01-734 0532.

PART-TIME VACANCIES

SEC./P.A. (PART-TIME) required to give administrative support to Director, the research project concerned with the pre- and post-natal development of the child, based close to Warren Street. Responsible position for person with good secretarial skills used to working at a senior level. Age 25-35. Hours (approx. 25 per week) with a realistic salary are negotiable. Telephone Mrs Noreen Mather, Personnel Consultants, 01-446 4945 (24 hrs. ans.).

NOTICE

All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available on request.

LEGAL NOTICES

Re: COLLIER AND COLLIER Limited (In Voluntary Liquidation) and the COMPANIES ACT, 1948

Notice is hereby given that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required on or before Friday, 22nd January, 1982 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the undersigned Ian Peter Phillips, FCA of Bernard Phillips & Co. New Cavendish House, 18 Maltravers Street, London WC2R 3EJ, the LIQUIDATOR of the said Company and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator are to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time or place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 27th day of November, 1981.

IAN PETER PHILLIPS, FCA
Liquidator

Re: HOCO (ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC) COMPONENTS Limited (In Voluntary Liquidation) and THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948

Notice is hereby given that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required on or before Friday, 8th January, 1982 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their Debts or Claims to the undersigned Bernard Phillips, F.C.A. of Bernard Phillips and Company, New Cavendish House, 18, Maltravers Street, London, WC2R 3EJ the LIQUIDATOR of the said Company and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator are to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time or place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such Debts are proved.

Dated this 27th day of November, 1981.

BERNARD PHILLIPS, F.C.A.
(Chartered Accountant).

Re: NEWTON COLLIER Limited (In Voluntary Liquidation) and THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948.

Notice is hereby given that the CREDITORS of the above-named Company are required on or before Friday, 22nd January 1982 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the undersigned Ian Peter Phillips, F.C.A. of Bernard Phillips & Co., New Cavendish House, 18 Maltravers Street, London, WC2R 3EJ, the LIQUIDATOR of the said Company and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator are to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time or place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 27th day of November, 1981.

IAN PETER PHILLIPS, F.C.A.
Liquidator

THE COMPANIES ACTS 1948 to 1976 L. & D. COMMERCIAL SERVICES Limited

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 293 of the Companies Act 1948, that the MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named Company will be held at 8 Upper Grosvenor Street, London, W.1 on Tuesday, the eighth day of December 1981, at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes mentioned in sections 294 and 295 of the said Act.

Dated this 18th day of November 1981

By Order of the Board
D G HARRIS
Secretary.

THE COMPANIES ACTS 1948 to 1976, BERDALE Limited

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 293 of the Companies Act 1948, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above-named Company will be held at 8 Upper Grosvenor Street, London, W.1, on Monday, the 14th day of December 1981, at 12 noon, for the purposes mentioned in sections 294 and 295 of the said Act.

Dated this 16th day of November 1981.

By Order of the Board.
ERIC G. WILSON,
Secretary.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT
SESSION 1981/82
PORT OF LONDON

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament in the present Session by the Port of London Authority (hereinafter called "the Port Authority") for leave to bring in a Bill under the above name or short title (hereinafter called "the Bill") for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

To increase the penalties provided for in the Port of London Act 1968 and in certain byelaws made by the Port Authority.

To amend certain provisions of the Port of London Act 1968 including the provisions relating to traffic offences on dock roads and the prohibition of certain lights detrimental to navigation.

To enact further provisions incidental to or consequential upon the above mentioned purposes.

On and after the 4th day of December 1981, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies obtained at the price of 50 pence each at the respective offices of the undermentioned Solicitor to the Port Authority and Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a petition against it in either or both Houses of Parliament. In the First House the latest date for the deposit of such a petition will be the 30th January 1982, if the Bill commences in the House of Commons, and the 6th February 1982 if it commences in the House of Lords. Further information may be obtained from the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords, the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 27th day of November 1981.

BRIAN GOLDS,
Port of London Authority,
"B" Block,
Basin South,
North Woolwich,
London, E16 2QF.
Solicitor.

REES & FRERES,
1 The Sanctuary,
Westminster,
London, SW1P 3JT.
Parliamentary Agents.

IN PARLIAMENT
SESSION 1981-82
THOMAS BROWN AND SONS, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that application has been made to Parliament by Thomas Brown and Sons, Limited for leave to introduce in the present Session of Parliament a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:—

1. To make provision for the transfer to the State of New South Wales in the Commonwealth of Australia of the incorporation of Thomas Brown and Sons, Limited.
2. To provide for the cesser of the application to the said company of the provisions of the Companies Acts 1948 to 1981 (with the exception of those which apply to oversea companies).

On and after the 4th day of December, 1981 a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof may be obtained at the price of 50p each at the offices of the undermentioned Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in either or both Houses of Parliament. The latest date for the deposit of such a Petition in the First House will be 6th February, 1982 if the Bill originates in the House of Lords, or 30th January, 1982 if it originates in the House of Commons. Further information may be obtained from the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 27th day of November, 1981.

SLAUGHTER AND MAY,
35 Basinghall Street,
London EC2V 5DB.
Solicitors.

DYSON, BELL & CO.,
15 Great College Street,
Westminster,
London SW1P 3RX.
Parliamentary Agents.

LA CREME DE LA CREME

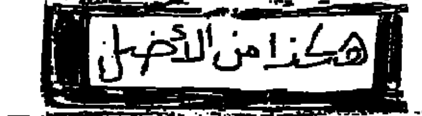
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Please apply in confidence, giving brief career details, to the Company Secretary, Joint Trawlers International Ltd., Birkheads House, Birkheads Road, Reigate, Surrey.



Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

0 For Schools, Colleges: Subjects include ...sical Science (free fall) at 9.00; Swim (water ...ety) at 9.25; part 10 of Dark Towers at 9.52; ...ths File (co-ordinates) at 10.38; Talkabout ...g's Christmas) at 11.22; and Going to Work ...rage work) at 11.40. 12.00 Closedown. 12.30 ...ws After Noon: with Richard Whitmore, Moira ...art. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One: includes Peter ...brook's regular gardening feature, Dig This. ...5 The Flumps: for the very young viewer. 2.02 ... Schools, Colleges: Includes Funny People, an ...estigation into humour, carried out at a school ...Bristol. 3.00 Snooker: First day of the final of ... Coral UK Professional Snooker Championship. ...ere are highlights on BBC1 tonight, at 10.50.

55 Play School: See also BBC 2, 11.00am.

20 Touché Turtle: cartoon. 4.25 Jackanory: Emily Richard reads part 5 of Kate Seredy's The Good Master. 4.40 Captain Caveman: cartoon.

50 Crackerjack: special guests today are The Dingbats. 5.35 The Amazing Adventures of Morph.

40 News with Richard Baker. 6.00 Regional news magazines. 6.22 Nationwide. With Desmond Lynam's Sportswide.

00 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? A lesson in how to beat the other fellow in a dispute. With Rodney Bewes, James Bolam (r).

30 Terry and June: Marital discord, made even worse. With Terry Scott and June Whitfield.

00 Kessler: Episode 4. Drama serial about an attempt to unmask a former SS chief who has now become a powerful industrialist. Tonight the action moves to Paraguay where Kessler is to be interrogated by the notorious Dr Mengele who seeks to establish where there is an Israeli hit-mob on his trail. Clifford Rose plays the title role and Nitza Saul plays the Israeli girl who is out to settle scores with him.

50 Points of View: with Barry Took.

.00 News: with John Simpson. And weather.

.25 Starsky and Hutch: A wounded murderer takes refuge in a woman's apartment.

.15 On the Town: London entertainments guide. Featuring Joan Armatrading, and the Society of West End Theatre Awards.

.50 Snooker: Highlights of today's play in the Coral United Kingdom Professional Championships.

.50 Film: Hello — Goodbye (1970) Romantic comedy about a motor car salesman (Michael Crawford) whose passion for cars is transformed when he falls in love with a French girl (Genevieve Gilles). The snag is: she is married. Co-starring Curt Jurgens as the husband, and Ira Furstenberg. Director: Jean Negulesco. Ends at 1.35am.

C 1 VARIATIONS: BBC CYMRU/WALES 12.57-1.00pm News. .5-2.00 Y Cowboi Bach. 2.35-3.00 I Yagolion. 4.50-5.15 Screen ...d. 5.15-5.40 Slop Siafins. 6.00-6.22 Wales Today. 7.00-7.30 ...ddw. 7.30-8.00 Fo a Fe. 10.15-11.05 Week In Week Out. 11.05-.06 News. 11.06 Join BBC 1 (Snooker). SCOTLAND 11.00am-.22 Schools. 12.55-1.00pm News. 6.00-6.22 Reporting Scotland. .15-10.45 Sink or Swim. 10.45-10.50 News. NORTHERN ...LAND 11.00am-11.22 Closedown. 12.57-1.00pm News. 3.53-.55 News. 6.00-6.22 Scene Around Six. 10.15-10.45 Spotlight. .45-10.50 News. 1.35am News. ENGLAND 6.00pm-6.22 ...gional News Magazines. 10.15-10.45 East Weekend. Midlands ...y Out. North Sign of the times. North East Coast to Coast. North ...est Unlucky for Some. South The Ian Wooldridge Interview. South ...ast West Country Tales. West The Other Half. 1.35am Close.

BBC 2

11.00 Play School: Jill Tomlinson's Dark is Beautiful; 11.25 Closedown; 3.55 Pro-Celebrity Golf: Sean Connery and Peter Falk v Lee Trevino and Severiano Ballesteros.



Lee Trevino: BBC2, 3.55

4.45 War at Sea: Nicholas Harman takes a fresh look at the circumstances surrounding the British Army evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940. He comes up with some unusual conclusions. Interviews with Dunkirk veterans and with Generalmajor Heinz Guderian (r).

5.45 Film: Tarzan's New York Adventure* (1942) Boy (Johnny Sheffield) is abducted to the United States and Tarzan and Jane (Johnny Weismuller and Maureen O'Sullivan) cross the Atlantic in pursuit of the abductors.

6.55 News: with sub-titles for the hard of hearing.

7.00 Oxford Road Show: Music, comment, entertainment.

7.40 Hold Down a Chord: Guitar lesson, number four.

7.55 In the Country: A visit to Woods Mill, headquarters of the Sussex Trust for Nature Conservation.

8.25 Newsweek: Progress report on Reagan's first year in office.

9.00 The Mike Harding Show: The comedian sings his Fall-out Calypso, about the world threatened with a nuclear holocaust. From the Grand Theatre, in Blackpool.

9.30 Playhouse: Virginia Fly is Drowning. Anna Massey stars in Angela Huth's comedy about a fantasy-prone virgin. Co-starring Noel Dyson, Richard Wilson, Avis Bunnage.

10.50 Newsnight: Bulletins and analysis. Includes a special investigation into the case of the runaway Great Train Robbery man Ronald Biggs. It throws new light on the successful attempt to kidnap him.

11.35 Friday Night ... Saturday Morning. Derek Jameson is the MC in the chat and music show. One of his guests his fellow chat show presenter Russell Harty. Others are Sue Arnold, who writes the Upfront column in The Observer, and the writer Johnny Speight. Ends at 12.30.

ITV/LONDON

9.35 For Schools: Subjects include How We Used to Live (Christmas in the Second World War); at 9.47 The Living Body; Evolution, A-Level (10.26); Biology A-Level (heather) at 10.48 and The Secret Life of the Manx Shearwater, part 2, at 11.34; 12.00 A Handful of Songs: with Keith Field, Maria Morgan; 12.10 Once Upon a Time: with Mark Wynter; 12.30 Wild World of Animals: film about the bee (r); 1.00 News; 1.20 Thames area news; 1.30 Taff Acre: Welsh life serial. Sian's love life is going sour; 2.00 After Noon Plus: Interviews with two long-time letter writers (Helene Hanff and Katherine Moore) who corresponded with people they never met; 2.45 Film: Only with Married Men (1975) Made-for-TV comedy about an amorous interior decorator (Michele Lee).

4.15 Cartoon: Mouse Warming.

4.20 Storybook International: Isla St Clair narrates The Twelve Months, a story about a girl in Hungary, written by Virginia Boston.

4.45 Spectrum: Fascinating scientific facts. Today's guests include an astrologer, Roger Elliot, and a magician, Billy McComb. There is also an item on the hunt for the Loch Ness Monster.

5.15 White Light: John Gunn, professor of forensic psychiatry, talks about the effects of violence and some of its victims talk about what the experience has done to them.

5.45 News.

6.00 Thames area news.

6.30 Thames sport. Includes a special item about the decline of Crystal Palace Football Club.

7.00 The Amazing Spiderman: A Chinese official is falsely accused of military intrigue. Only Spiderman (Nicholas Hammond) can help him.

8.30 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right: Tonight's competing couples are Nick and Linda Dorras, from Leytonstone, east London; and James and Lorraine Boult, from Westcliff-on-Sea in Essex.

9.00 The Gentle Touch: Detective-Inspector Maggie Forbes (Jill Gascoine) could be in considerable danger when a 16-year-old girl, convicted of murder, escapes from a detention centre. It was Maggie who arrested the girl. What the police woman does not know is that the escaped girl is sitting in Maggie's home.

10.00 News: from ITN.

10.30 Soap: American comedy series about two odd families, the Tates and the Campbells.

11.00 The London Programme: Unemployment in the Medway Towns. Seven thousand lose their jobs when Chatham Dockyard shuts in 1983. And the BP refinery on the Isle of Grain is to close, putting many more out of work. This is a special report on what looks like a bleak future for the area. Interviews with, among others, Sir Freddie Burden, Tory MP for Gillingham and Bob Beane, former Labour MP for Medway.

11.35 Police 5: with Shaw Taylor.

11.45 Strumpet City: Serial about Dublin life in the first two decades of the present century. Relations worsen between the two priests, Father O'Connor (Frank Grimes) and Father Giffley (Cyril Cusack).

12.45 Close: A reading from Lieutenant-colonel Blashford-Snell.

CHOICE

Helene Hanff: After Noon Plus (ITV, 2.00pm)

● AFTER NOON PLUS (ITV, 2.00 pm), having been denied the chance to interview that remarkable patroness Nazdezhda von Meck who corresponded with Tchaikovsky for much of his adult life yet never once met him, settles for the next best thing. Or rather, for the two next best things. One of them is Helene Hanff, the button-bright American writer whose 20-year exchange of letters with the London bookshop manager Frank Doel she never met was distilled into the book 84 Charing Cross Road, and subsequently into the play which has now opened to much acclaim at the Ambassadors in London. The other is Katharine Moore, who, for the same number of years, talked to Joyce Grenfell, and, like Miss Hanff, did it entirely through the medium of her pen.

● SNOOKER (BBC 1, 3.00, with highlights at 10.50) brings the first day's play in the two-day finals of the Coral United Kingdom Championships. This nail-biting encounter will inevitably mean that those of us who, though addicted to the game, have complained that the BBC is devoting far too much time to this sport these days, will now wish that we had kept our mouths shut.

● TO KILL A TOWN (Radio 4, 3.02) isn't the best-written or the best-acted Afternoon Theatre play I have heard this year. It is, however, a very inventive one, and originality must count for something in these stereotyped days. Put simply, Derek Raby's drama is about a threat by person or persons unknown to throttle a British town, the identity of which is likewise unknown.

● THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD, by Charles Dickens, which is being understandingly read by John Rye, reaches its tenth episode today (Radio 4, 4.45). If you know your Dickens, you'll recognize the exact sentence where the master, one day away from death, added his final full-stop and thus left the story incomplete. But if you are coming to this splendid tale for the first time, you will never guess where Dickens ends and where Leon Garfield begins. What is more, given the many clues that Dickens scattered throughout the book, the solution to the Drood riddle which Mr Garfield provides makes total and satisfying sense.

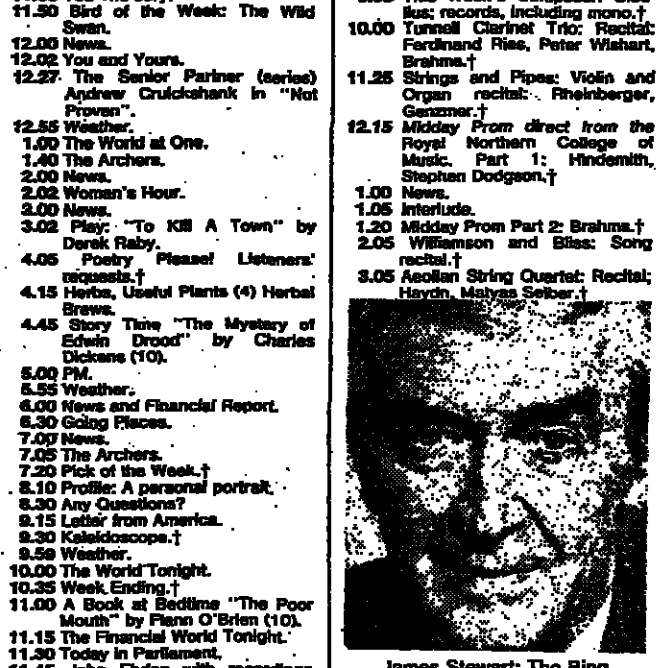
Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Desert Island Discs. Castaway: Sir Douglas Bader.
9.45 A Sideways Look At ... by Anthony Smith.
10.00 News.
10.02 International Assignment.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Morning Story: "He Floats Through the Air" by Virginia Newlin.
11.00 News.
11.05 You The Jury.
11.50 Bird of the Week: The Wild Swan.
12.00 News.
12.02 You and Yours.
12.27 The Senior Partner (series) Andrew Cruickshank in "Not Proven".
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Play: "To Kill A Town" by Derek Raby.
4.05 Poetry Please! Listeners' requests.†
4.15 Herbs, Useful Plants (4) Herbal Brews.
4.45 Story Time "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" by Charles Dickens (10).
5.00 PM.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News and Financial Report.
6.30 Going Places.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Pick of the Week.†
8.10 Profile: A personal portrait.
8.30 Any Questions?
9.15 Letter from America.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.†
9.59 Weather.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.35 Week Ending.†
11.00 A Book at Bedtime "The Poor Mouth" by Flann O'Brien (10).
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
11.45 John Ebdon with recordings from the BBC Sound Archives.
12.00 News.

VHF: 6.25 am Weather. 9.05 For Schools. 10.30 Listen with Mother. 11.00 For Schools. 2.00 pm For Schools. 5.50 PM (continued). 11.00 Study on 4.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: Clarke, Graf von Wassenaer, attrib. Weber, Kirnberger, attrib. Haydn.
8.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert (continued) Beethoven, Mozart (mono), Brahms; records.†
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Sibelius; records, including mono.†
10.00 Tunnell Clarinet Trio: Recital: Ferdinand Ries, Peter Wishart, Brahms.†
11.25 Strings and Pipes: Violin and Organ recital: Rheinberger, Genzmer.†
12.15 Midday Prom direct from the Royal Northern College of Music. Part 1: Hindemith, Stephen Dodgson.†
1.00 News.
1.05 Interlude.
1.20 Midday Prom Part 2: Brahms.†
2.05 Williamson and Bliss: Song recital.†
3.05 Aeolian String Quartet: Recital; Haydn, Matyas Seiber.†



James Stewart: The Bing Crosby Show (Radio 2, 10.30pm)

4.00 A Service of Thanksgiving: Excerpts from the 150th Anniversary Service held in the Chapel of King's College, London, on Tuesday 17th November.†
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.†
6.55 Play It Again: Preview.†
7.00 Claudio Arrau: Piano recital on records: Chopin, Debussy.†
7.30 Scottish National Orchestra. Concert direct from the Usher Hall, Edinburgh Part 1: Simon Thorne, Glazunov.†
8.10 Poetry Now.
8.30 Scottish National Orchestra. Part 2: Rimsky-Korsakov.†
9.20 Music in our Time: "A Full Moon in March". The play by W. B. Yates as a chamber opera with music by David Ward.†
10.10 Souvenirs of Chabrier. Fourth of five programmes in which Roger Nichols considers the art of Emmanuel Chabrier.
11.00 News.
11.05 SOR on record.†
VHF ONLY — Open University: 11.20 pm-12.00 midnight.

Radio 2

5.00 Ray Moore.† 7.30 Terry Wogan.† 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00 John Dunn.† 2.00 pm Ed Stewart.† 4.00 David Hamilton.† 5.45 News. 6.00 Don Durbridge.† 8.00 Take Your Partners.† 8.45 Friday Night is Music Night.† 10.00 Marks in his Diary (series). 10.30 The Bing Crosby Show (series) Special guest; James Stewart. 11.00 Brian Matthew† from midnight. 1.00 Truckers' Hour.† 2.00-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†



Andrew Cruickshank: The Senior Partner (Radio 4, 12.27)

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee Travis. 2.00 pm Paul Burnett. 3.30 Steve Wright. 5.45 Roundtable. 7.00 Andy Peebles. 10.00 The Friday Rock Show.† 12.00 midnight close. VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am With Radio 2. 10.00pm With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 With Radio 2.

World Service

BBC World Service can be recieved in Western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz, 463m) at the following times (GMT): 6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary. 7.30 Guitar Workshop. 7.45 Merchant Navy Programme. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Divertimento. 8.30 Frank Muir Goes Into ... 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Music Now. 10.15 Merchant Navy Programme. 10.30 Business Matters. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 In the Meantime. 11.25 Ulster Newsletter. 11.30 Meridian. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Jazz for the Asking. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary. 1.30 The Discovery of Penicillin. 2.15 Letterbox. 2.30 John Peel. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Science in Action. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Just a Minute. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary. 9.15 Music Now. 9.45 Letter from London. 9.55 Wave-guide. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 The Week in Wales. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 From the Weeklies. 11.30 Michael Strogoff. 12.00 World News. 12.09 News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 About Britain. 12.45 Sarah and Company. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 The French Miniature. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 People and Politics. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 Three Centuries of Italian Opera. 4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 The World Today.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 MF 1053kHz/285m or 1089kHz/275m. Radio 2 MF 693kHz/433m or 909kHz/330m. Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz. Radio 3 VHF 90-92.5MHz, MF 1215kHz/247m. Radio 4 LF 200kHz/1500m and VHF 92-95MHz. Greater London Area MF 720kHz/417m. LBC MF 1152khz/261m, VHF 97.3MHz. Capital MF 1548kHz/194m, VHF 95.8MHz. BBC Radio London MF 1458kHz/206m and VHF 94.9MHz. World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

ATV

As London except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Fit for Living. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Passion (Cornel Wilde). A rancher revenges the murder of his wife. 5.15-5.45 Here's Boomer. 6.00-7.00 ATV Today. 10.30 Going out. 11.00 News. 11.05 Film: File It Under Fear (Maureen Lipman). A mass murder investigation focusses on a timid librarian. 12.40 am Closedown.

CHANNEL

As London except: 12.00 Closedown. 12.30-1.00 Fit for Living. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Silver Lode (John Payne, Dan Duryea) Western. 5.15-5.45 Adventures of Niko. 6.00-7.00 Channel Report. 10.28 News. 10.35 Dartmoor Evening. 11.30 Chicago Blues. 12.25 Closedown.

WESTWARD

As London except: 12.27 Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 12.30-1.00 Fit for Living. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Silver Lode (John Payne, Dan Duryea) Western. 5.15-5.45 Adventures of Niko. 6.00-7.00 Westward Diary. 10.32 News. 10.35 Dartmoor Evening. 11.30 Chicago Blues. 12.25 Faith for Life. 12.31 Closedown.

BORDER

As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Fit for Living 1.20-1.30 News 2.45-4.15 Film: Life is a Circus (Crazy Gang) Farcical comedy surrounding a fading circus 5.15-5.45 Bygones 6.00 Lookaround 6.30-7.00 That's Hollywood: Great Entertainers 10.30 Book Programme 11.00 Roots: Comedy 11.30 News 11.35 Closedown

GRANADA

As London except 11.54-12.00 Bubbles 12.30-1.00 Fit For Living 1.20-1.30 Granada Reports 2.00 Live from Two 2.45-4.15 Film: Storm in a Teacup. (Vivien Leigh, Rex Harrison). Comedy; reporter makes the fining of an old lady a national issue. 5.15-5.45 Here's Boomer 6.00 Granada Reports 6.30-7.00 Kick Off 10.30 Week On Friday 11.00 Roots 11.30 Film: Vampire Lovers (Ingrid Pitt, Peter Cushing): Beautiful vampire returns from the grave. 1.10 Closedown.

TYNE TEES

As London except: Starts. 9.25 Good Word. 9.30-9.35 News. 12.30pm-1.00 Fit for Living. 1.20-1.30 News, Lookaround. 2.45-4.15 Film: Impostor: A theatre owner (Paul Hecht) impersonates a wealthy businessman to save his theatre. 5.15-5.45 Clifton House Mystery. 6.00 News. 6.02 Sportstime. 6.30-7.00 Northern Life. 10.30 News. 10.32 Friday Live. 12.00 Superstar Profile: Stephen Spielberg. 12.30 Poet's Corner. 12.40 Closedown.

SOUTHERN

As London except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Fit for Living. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25-4.15 Film: Crash of Flight 401 (William Shatner). Investigation of mystery air crash in Miami. 5.15 Dick Tracy. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Day by Day. 6.00 Scene South East. 6.30-7.00 Entertainers. 10.35 Film: Red Circle (Alain Delon). An ex-convict tries desperately to go straight. 1.00 am Weather followed by Prescriptions.

ANGLIA

As London except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Fit for Living. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25-4.15 Film: Bud and Lou (Harvey Korman, Buddy Hackett). Story of Abbott and Costello. 5.15-5.45 End of Part One. 6.00-7.00 About Anglia. 11.00 Members Only. 11.30 Film: Return of Joe Forrester (Lloyd Bridges). Retired detective returns to his beat to catch four men who kidnap, rape and murder. 12.40 am Window on the World.

GRAMPIAN

As London except: Starts 9.30 am-9.35 First Thing. 12.30pm-1.00 Fit for Living. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.45-4.15 Film: Nurse on Wheels* (Juliet Mills, Ronald Lewis). Comedy about adventures of a district nurse. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00-7.00 North Tonight. 10.30 Film: Benjamin (Michele Morgan, Catherine Deneuve). Romantic drama of eighteenth-century rake. 12.25 Closedown.

HTV

As London except: 12.30-1.00 Fit for Living. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.45 Cartoon. 2.50-4.15 Film: Future Cop. (Ernest Borgnine, Michael Shannon)-An experienced policeman realizes there is something unusual about a young colleague. 5.15 Cartoon. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Report West. 6.30-7.00 Longest River: Severn, Lydney to the sea. 10.28 News. 10.30 Report Extra. 11.00 Film: Rabbit Run (James Caan, Anjanette Comer). The only thing a couple have in common is their son and the propect of a baby. 12.40 Closedown.

HTV CYMRU/WALES

As HTV West except:— 10.48-11.03 Y Byd A'i Bethau 11.34 About Wales 11.50 Cartoon 12.00-12.10 Ffalabalam 1.30-2.00 Happy Days 4.15-4.45 Plant Dyn A'i Fyd 6.00 Y Dydd 6.15 Report Wales 6.30-7.00 Taff Acre 10.30-11.00 Outlook

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Fit for Living 1.20-1.30 News 2.45-4.15 Film: Green for Danger* (Trevor Howard, Alastair Sim) Whodunnit set in wartime hospital 5.15-5.45 Here's Boomer 6.00 Calendar 6.30-7.00 Sport 11.00 Film: Wicker Man (Edward Woodward, Britt Ekland) Woodward stars as a policeman who finds himself in the hands of devil-worshippers. 12.40 am Closedown

ULSTER

As London except 12.30 pm-1.00 Fit for Living 1.20-1.30 Lunchtime 2.45 Film: Life is a Circus (Crazy Gang) farcical comedy surrounding a fading circus 4.13-4.15 News 5.15-5.45 Survival 6.00-7.00 Good Evening Ulster 10.30 Witness 10.35 Lou Grant 11.30 Bedtime, Closedown

SCOTTISH

As London except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Fit for Living 1.20-1.30 News 2.45-4.15 Film: Punch & Jody (Glenn Ford) 5.15 Tales of Crime 5.20-5.45 Crossroads 6.00 Scotland Today 6.25 Sports Extra 6.45-7.00 Hear Here 10.30 Ways & Means 11.00 Film: Kiss, Kiss, Kill, Kill 12.20 am Late Call 12.25 Closedown

Classified Guide

BL unions back deal to end tea break strike

By Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent

The "tea break" strike at BL's Longbridge car plant could end today. Shop stewards will recommend the 4,000 strikers to accept a peace formula reached after 12 hours of talks.

Both sides gave an undertaking not to disclose details before a mass meeting of workers today. They fear that, because of the complicated nature of the deal, prior disclosure would lead to ill-formed comment in the media which could prejudice the outcome.

But management and union sources were adamant last night that the result still hinged on how Mr Jack Adams, the works convenor, and leader of the strike, presents the deal to his members.

It is believed that BL has compromised by meeting in part the union demand that the 12 per cent cut in daily relaxation time allowance should be withdrawn. This suggests that it will be satisfied with a reduction from 52 minutes a day to 46, instead of its original demand for 40.

In return, the unions may have accepted that some increase in assembly track speeds is necessary to ensure that the one-hour reduction to a 39-hour week does not involve additional manufacturing costs.

Activity behind the scenes by Sir Michael Edwardes, BL's chairman—including secret meetings with Mr Moss Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU), and Mr Terence Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AEUW)—paved the way for the talks.

The two sides got together on Tuesday evening, after Mr Harold Musgrove, chairman of BL's light-medium car operations, received a telephone call from Mr John Barker, the TGWU full-time official responsible for Longbridge. He said the works committee wanted to meet management to discuss the compromise offers made by both sides in the previous 48 hours.

Full-time officials from other unions were hastily summoned to Longbridge, and the talks began shortly after 5 pm. With long adjournments, with first one side, then the other, considered new proposals the talks continued until 5.30 am yesterday.

One of those taking part said: "I think we all knew that if we did not succeed this time it would be a bleak Christmas for everyone."

The unions have requested that today's meeting takes place inside the plant to ensure that speakers get a fair hearing.

Finishing touches to Queen's head



Work is nearing completion on Franta Belsky's portrait head of the Queen. The first bronze cast will go into the collection of the National Portrait Gallery, which commissioned it as a companion piece to the sculptor's head of the Duke of Edinburgh, carried out in 1979 (Robin Young writes).

Mr Belsky met the Queen frequently at Buckingham Palace last month.

"When meeting the Queen, and seeing her marvelous colouring, especially her eyes, it is rather frustrating that as a sculptor one cannot capture that. But then I have many advantages. I do not need or expect people to sit stiff. I see her moving, and from all angles, and gain some extra knowledge. A sculpture is a likeness from any angle and in any light. Finally one has to decide what are the essential characteristics of the sitter, whoever it is.

"With the Queen, hers is a strong head, with tremendous natural dignity and poise, linked always with deep humanity."

Marrow transplant study announced

By Annabel Ferriman Health Services Correspondent

A working party to look at the possibility of setting up more bone-marrow transplant centres was announced by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, in the House of Commons yesterday.

The announcement follows the revelation in *The Times* yesterday that 97 children had died waiting for transplants at the Westminster Hospital, London, where doctors are limited to 25 a year through lack of funds.

Mr Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, asked Mrs Thatcher, at Prime Minister's question time, if she would give an assurance that "sufficient means" would be made available so that doctors were not placed in the dilemma of having to choose one child to live out of seven.

Mrs Thatcher replied that Sir Douglas Black, President of the Royal College of Physicians, had agreed to chair a working party to consider the needs for future units outside London, so that the situation would not occur again.

She said that she was very concerned about the story and what was happening. Everyone in the Government admired the excellent work being done by Professor John Hobbs at the Westminster.

The article in *The Times* yesterday revealed that bone-marrow transplants, usually used for patients with leukaemia, were also being used very successfully at the Westminster for children suffering from gargoylism, which usually leads to crippled joints, impaired vision and brain damage.

The children who had been successfully transplanted were expected to have an ordinary lifespan instead of the 10 to 20 years they could expect without one. Many children with leukaemia were having their chances of survival also greatly increased.

The demand for bone marrow transplants nationally has been calculated at 300 to 500 a year, but only about 125 are now carried out.

Sir Douglas Black said yesterday that no one had yet been appointed to the working party, but the committee would include representatives of the Royal Colleges of Pathology, Haematology and Radiology.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Assault of harmless pensioner on bench

Members of Parliament, like most Britons, presumably regard the beginning of December as the start of Christmas, for yesterday there was already a touch of Yuletide ill-will in the air.

Mr Michael Foot, the Leader of the Opposition, showed some of his old aggressive spirit by denouncing in the most personal terms a candidate in the Bermondsey by-election which is expected in the New Year. Unfortunately it was the Labour candidate. Later there was a substantial row about housing arrangements in Norwich. Still later, following some Labour procedural sharp practice, there was a blundering Tory attempt at a sort of filibuster, just to remind us that Christmas is coming and the heads are getting fat.

But first, Foot. Or rather, feet first. For it was with some abandon that he jumped into trouble. For months, the Conservative newspapers had been telling him to take the side of the moderates in the constituency parties. There are no moderates in the constituency parties. That is the beauty of it from the point of view of the Conservative newspapers.

Yesterday he took their advice and hit out. When he had picked himself up off the floor, one reflected: is there nothing that will go right for this lovable figure these days? A man capable of getting bad publicity out of laying a wreath on the cenotaph is a man from whom the Gods have mysteriously removed their favour.

The scene was Prime Minister's Question Time. An inquiry was directed at Mrs Thatcher by the defector from the Labour to the Social Democratic benches, Mr James Wellbeloved. But it was really intended to make terrible trouble for Mr Foot, who was sitting on the Opposition front bench in the way that lovable pensioners sit on benches all over Britain, without being bothered, in the sunset of their lives, by people like the menacingly-named Mr Wellbeloved.

Was the Prime Minister aware, Mr Wellbeloved asked, that the prospective Parliamentary Labour candidate at Bermondsey had called for "extra-Parliamentary action to be taken to challenge the Government's right to rule?" This was, as we later discovered, a reference to a certain Mr Tatchell, who is indeed the prospective candidate at Bermondsey. He is aged 29, a social worker, and (one is informed by Tuesday's William Hickey) a Gay Rights campaigner who, at the 10th world youth festival in East Berlin in 1973, hoisted a banner calling for solidarity with East German Gays, had it ripped down by his own delegation, and burst into tears. In other words, a perfectly normal member of the modern Labour Party.

Mr Tatchell has raved harmlessly about extra-Parliamentary action in a totally unreadable and unread Labour newsletter. Mrs Thatcher solemnly expressed concern. Mr Foot rose. That was his first mistake. "Since the matter has been raised, can I say, Mr Speaker, that the individual concerned is not an endorsed member of the Labour Party and as far as I am concerned never will be."

This delighted those in the Parliamentary Labour Party who favour a strong line against the extremists. That was all very well, but what about the other nine tenths of the Parliamentary Labour Party? From them there were visible expressions of concern.

So forthright were Mr Foot's remarks that a lot of us assumed that he had not heard the reference to Bermondsey and thought we were discussing the application to join the party by Mr Tariq Ali, the grand old man of 1960's extremism. Mr Peter Bottomley, a Tory backbencher, in an attempt to find out who Mr Foot thought he was talking about.

Later, Mr Foot interviewed to say that he had not intended to use the term "not an endorsed member," but "not an endorsed candidate." So it was indeed the chosen candidate of Bermondsey party who had been disowned.

Then, for some murky procedural reason, the Government whips tried to prolong, for two and a half hours, a half hour debate on an alleged injustice done to a Preston police dog-handler. This was in order to prevent Labour forcing a debate on the previous day's economic statement. The dog-handler debate included a filibustering speech by the Tory backbencher Mr Geoffrey Dickens. He achieved fame last summer as the hammer of the paedophiles and terror of the *thé dansant*. He is thus the second most famous Dickens in English comedy. He said he knew nothing about the dog-handler. There was no doubt a logical explanation for it all. Christmas.

Czech spy case man had no immunity

By Craig Seton and Stewart Tendler

No offer of immunity was made to Mr Edward Scott, the former British diplomat who passed information to the Czechs, the Prime Minister disclosed last night. Papers had been submitted to the prosecuting authorities but they decided not to proceed, and the Foreign Secretary of the day decided that he should continue to receive his retirement pension.

Mrs Thatcher, in a written parliamentary answer, added: "There was no connexion with other cases and on the evidence available little damage was likely to have been caused to the national interest".

Mrs Thatcher disclosed that following a reprimand in 1959 for helping his Czech housemaid to Vienna, Mr Scott had in 1961 been retired on immediate pension "on the grounds that he lacked the qualities required for further promotion".

Although it was "suspected" that his housemaid had been planted on him by the Czech intelligence service, it was not until 1969 that the British services learnt that he had "passed material" to the Czechs, whereupon he was confronted and his prosecution considered.

Mrs Thatcher said that Mr Scott could lose his pension only if he were convicted of offences specified in Civil Service pension scheme.

Sources close to MI5 yesterday denied any deliberate leaking or witch hunt orchestrated by the security service to reveal former Soviet spies. The public now knew most of the figures uncovered by MI5 and all that remained were one or two minor individuals, they said.

Mr Nigel West, the author, claimed in *The Times* yesterday, that MI5 had investigated 60 people in the period from 1951 to 1963 and 12 to 16 individuals were neither cleared nor implicated. That number of people with question marks over them was doubted yesterday by one former senior member of the intelligence community.

Mr West, who said he had been responsible for the public disclosures about Mr Leo Long and Mr Edward Scott over recent weeks, said he had no contact with serving MI5 officers. Mr Long, who confessed in *The Sunday Times* on November 1 to having been a member of the Blunt group, and Mr Scott, who confessed in the same newspaper on November 29 to contacts with Communist agents, were uncovered, Mr West claimed, through hints elicited during his research.

The view in MI5 is that Mr West, who recently published a history of the service from 1909 to 1945, got his leads from "old MI5 hands" who had left the service some time ago.

One source said yesterday: "There are many people who have been through the ranks and might become casual in their later retirement. I can't believe there is anyone now in the service. Discipline has always been very good. They are rather formal chaps. If there are to be any hand outs it would be done by departmental or ministerial sources."

Confidentiality was essential to MI5's work and revelations made it more difficult to do the work, especially if there were unresolved leads still to be followed up years later, it was said. One sources, a leading figure in the intelligence community, said that MI5 had not been happy to expose Professor Blunt publicly. "They were happy about the information gleaned from Blunt and they did not want to have that discussed," he said. The criticism about the immunity Professor Blunt had been given left them shocked because "they thought they had done a good job".

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Tomorrow's events

Princess Anne, Colonel-in-Chief, 14/20th King's Hussars continues visit to regiment at Hohne, near Hanover.

Exhibitions

Paintings and watercolours by Turner, Tate Gallery, 10 to 6.

American toys, 1870-1955, Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, 10 to 6.

Prints by Dufy, Ibels, Laurencin, Marini, Toulouse-Lautrec, Vertes and others, Holford Gallery, 34 Tavistock Street, 12 to 6.

The Great Japan Exhibition, Royal Academy, 10 to 6.

Craigie Aitchison paintings, Serpentine Gallery, 10 to 4.30.

Provincial exhibitions

Photographs of Hebrides by Gus Wyllie, 10 to 5, and early postcards, 1869-1939, 10 to 5, both at Aberdeen Art Gallery.

"Tribal Encounters", ethnic objects collected by David Attenborough, Leicestershire Museum, Leicester, 10 to 5.30.

Work by disabled, Derby art gallery, 10 to 5.

Talks, lectures

Royal and parliamentary portraits, 1793-1832, by John Cooper, National Portrait Gallery, 1.

Omega furniture, by Geoffrey Opie, 12, Christmas scenes in medieval art, by Catherine Oakes, 3, both at Victoria and Albert Museum.

"The symbolic language of art", Laurence Bradbury, Tate Gallery, 3.

"Mother Nature—mathematical genius", by John Stevenson, Science Museum, 3; snakes and lizards of Europe, Natural History Museum, 3; London's landscape, Geology Museum, Kensington, 2.30.

Claude and Turner, by Colin Wiggins, National Gallery, 12.

Christianity in Roman Britain, 11.30; and techniques of archaelogical excavation", 2.30, both by David Williams, British Museum.

Music

Carols, 3 (for children) and 7.30, Albert Hall.

Louis Halsey Singers, Kingston-upon-Thames parish church, 8.

Suffolk Symphony Orchestra, Bury St Edmunds Cathedral, 7.30.

Christmas music, St Cuthbert's, Wells, 7.30.

Walks

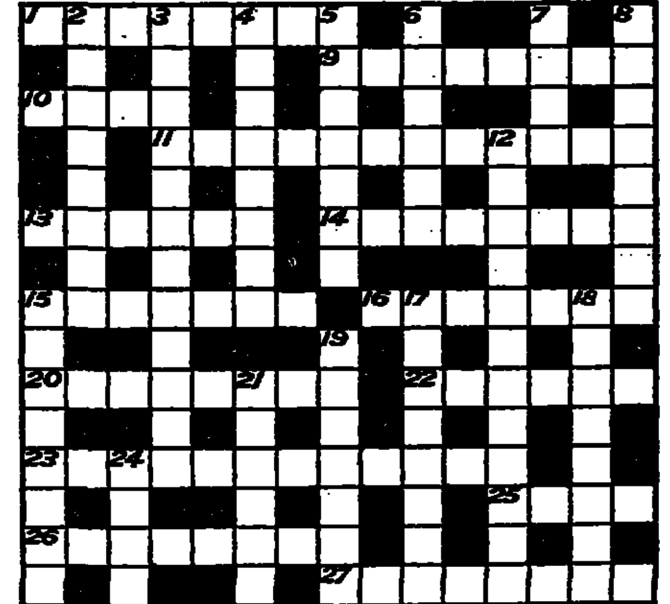
Dickens's London, meet St Paul's station, 2.30; "Death in the West End", meet Embankment station, 2.0; Greenwich, meet Greenwich Pier, 12.30 and 3.

Last chance to see

Unlimited Leisure, photographs by Elisabeth Lewis and Maureen O'Brien, Islington Central Library, 9 to 5.

Exhibition of miniature decanters, Knightsbridge Pavillion, 112 Old Brompton Road, 11 to 3.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,697



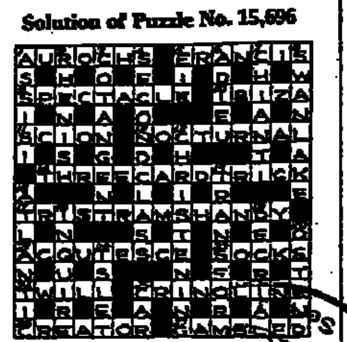
ACROSS

1 "Tubby" tradesman takes in Dee's letters as a guide (8).
9 Refinement Pussy observed in the Owl (8).
10 Almost lost to charity (4).
11 It's necessary before sapper is quite organized (12).
13 Represented by the last of fifty stars (6).
14 Paper producer, formerly an underground worker (8).
15 The opposite to a Gaelic clergyman? (7).
16 Man-eater's description, eg, or his misrepresentation (7).
20 Snoops half pertly, like Becket (8).
22 Old man's variety of tree (6).
23 Aeneas did love such a queen (12).
25 Clothing 'e gives a bird (4).
26 Dost instruct leaves to be stored herein? (3-5).
27 CID follow 21 perhaps on the Clyde (8).

DOWN

2 Share out lace, a lot needing repair (8).
3 Removal from office recognized by Archimedes (12).
4 Force and motion study of cows with muscular spasms (8).
5 Sporting official may help us get a job (7).
6 Mobled queen, ambassador to a W Indian island (6).
7 Opposed to the curtailment of a singular prank (4).
8 Assembly of cars here for investigation (8).
12 Said to have observed a £500 purchase by the zoo? (6).
15 Extortionate greed takes artist to Pittsburgh, perhaps (8).
17 They're blooming pleased with oil output, one understands (8).
18 Villainous-looking relation around Islington area (8).
19 Poets play stringed instruments (7).
21 Merchant may be at sea (6).
24 Breed to bring up at last (4).

Solution of Puzzle No. 15,696



Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow

Auctions today

Bonhams, Montpelier Street: Clocks, watches, barometers and scientific instruments, 11; ceramics and works of art, 11. Christie's, King Street: Coins, medallions, 11. Christie's, South Kensington: Books, atlases and maps, 10.30; silver 2. National Theatre, Olivier stage: Works by British theatre designers, 5.30. Phillips, Blenheim Street: Silver and plate, 11. Sotheby's, Bond Street: Modern prints, 11 and 2.30. Sotheby's Belgravia: Railwayana, 10.30 and 2.30.

Viewing

Christie's King Street: Chinese works of art; guns; Japanese works of art; Renaissance bronzes; Old Master drawings. Phillips, Blenheim Street: Old Master paintings; furniture, carpets and objects. Sotheby's, Bond Street: Objects of vitu; works of art. Sotheby's, Belgravia: Decorative arts.

Today's anniversaries

Births: Thomas Carlyle, Ecclefechan, Annandale, 1795; Samuel Butler, author of *Erewhon*, Langar, Nottinghamshire, 1835; Rainer Maria Rilke, Prague, 1875. Deaths: Thomas Hobbes, author of *Leviathan*, at Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire, 1679, and John Gay in London, 1732. *The Observer* first published, 1791.

The Pound

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	1.73	1.66
Austria Sch	32.10	30.00
Belgium Fr	84.75	80.75
Canada $	2.37	2.28
Denmark Kr	14.52	13.82
France Fr	11.40	10.80
Germany DM	4.51	4.27
Greece Dr	122.00	114.00
Hongkong $	11.30	10.70
Ireland Pt	1.27	1.22
Italy Lira	2410.00	2310.00
Japan Yn	446.00	420.00
Netherlands Gld	4.92	4.68
Norway Kr	11.55	10.95
Portugal Esc	131.00	124.00
South Africa Rd	1.92	1.76
Spain Pta	193.25	184.25
Sweden Kr	11.04	10.50
Switzerland Fr	3.66	3.44
USA $	2.00	1.93
Yugoslavia Dnr	94.00	88.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

London: The *FT* Index fell 11.1 to 519.9.

Sporting fixtures

Racing: NH meetings at Kempton Park, 1; Newcastle, 12.45.

Football: Second division—Cardiff City v Derby County, 7.30. Fourth division—Colchester United v Blackpool, 7.30.

Rugby union: Newport v Bristol, 7.15; Pontypridd v Sale, 7.

Snooker: Coral UK professional championship, Preston Guild Hall.

Skating: British championships, Richmond.

Squash rackets: British closed championships, Abbeydale SRC, Sheffield.

Lawn tennis: Scottish covered court championships, Largs.

Badminton: Welsh open championships, Cwmbran NSC.

Sport on TV

BBC 1: Snooker, 3 and 10.50.
BBC 2: International pro-celebrity golf, 3.55.
ITV: Thames Sport, 6.30.

Top box office films

The top 10 films in London:

1 The French Lieutenant's Woman
2 Mommie Dearest
3 An American Werewolf in London
4 Shogun
5 True Confessions
6 For Your Eyes Only
7 Dressed to Kill/The Amityville Horror
8 Raiders of the Lost Ark
9 Montenegro
10 The Fox and the Hound

The top five in the provinces:

1 Death Hunt
2 Monty Python's Life of Brian/Airplane 1
3 Stripes
4 An American Werewolf in London
5 The French Lieutenant's Woman

Compiled by Screen International.

© TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED 1981. Printed and published by Times Newspapers Limited, P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ, England. Telephone: 01-837 1234. Telex: 264971. Friday, December 4, 1981. Registered as a Newspaper at the Post Office.

The papers

In an editorial calling for effective action to combat a crisis of overcrowding in British prisons, the Daily Mirror says today that too many inmates ought not to be there. "Building new prisons is not the answer. The crisis is now." One in eight inmates were men held on remand. More were there for debt offences—"often a refusal to pay maintenance to a hated spouse—for which detention is an incompetent remedy", the paper commented.

"As a result, nearly 45,000 men are living in Victorian prisons built to hold far fewer and in conditions which are a disgrace."

Commenting on the forthcoming meeting between Herr Schmidt and Herr Honecker in East Berlin, Die Welt said yesterday that the frontier through Germany is the hardest and bloodiest one in Europe. The fact that people in East and West cannot pass it free should be the main theme for the two leaders, who will be talking about the normalization of relations between the two German countries.

The Süddeutsche Zeitung gave a warning against too high hopes from the meeting: "The Government of East Germany is as responsible as Bonn for any so-called normal relations", it said.

The Washington Post said yesterday that according to an unnamed senior commander of the guerrilla forces, the left-wing Sandinista leadership of Nicaragua was prepared to negotiate an end to the civil war in the country.

Roads

London and the South-east: A259: temporary signals east of Kingstone Bridge, Shoreham-by-Sea. Trundleys Road, Deptford, partially closed until February.

Midlands: A50: single lane with temporary lights at Upper Tean River Bridge, Staffordshire. A34: northbound lanes closed at Mile House Lane roundabout, Newcastle-under-Lyme. A49: signals operating on Monkmoor Road between Shrewsbury and Whitchurch.

North: A1: lane closures between Pontefract and Wetherby, West Yorkshire. A56: Haslingden by-pass, Lancashire, opens today. M62: work ends today between junctions 29 and 31, West Yorkshire.

Wales and West: A30: works at Claverton Down, Avon. A390: works between Callington and Redruth, Cornwall. A458: works west of Welshpool, Powys.

Scotland: A92: partial closure at A987 intersection, near Aberdour, Fife; diversions. M8: lane closures between junctions 8 and 15. A9: delays at Blair Atholl and south of Pitlochry, Perthshire.

Parliament today

Commons, 9.30: Debate on private members' motion on effects of government policies on West Midlands.

£25,000 winner

The winner of the £250,000 prize in the December Premium Savings Bond draw is number 8AF 967589. The winner lives in Gloucestershire.

Weather

Pressure will remain high to the W of Britain. A NW airstream will be maintained over the whole country, with troughs of low pressure moving S.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, Central S England, E Anglia, Midlands: Cloudy, a little light rain or drizzle, becoming clearer from N; wind W or NW, moderate or fresh; max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

SW England, S Wales, Channel Islands: Cloudy, rain or drizzle, clearer later; wind NW, moderate, occasionally fresh; max temp 11 to 13C (52 to 55F).

E, NE, Central N England, Borders, Edinburgh Dundee: Showers with bright or sunny intervals, possibly more persistent rain later; wind NW, fresh or strong; max temp 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, N Ireland: Variable cloud, sunny intervals, perhaps some showers, especially over exposed coasts and hills; wind W, moderate, becoming fresh; max temp 7 to 9C (45 to 48F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly cloudy with showers, wintry at times; wind NW, fresh or strong; max temp 5 to 7C (41 to 45F).

Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland: Mostly cloudy, but some bright intervals at first, rain and drizzle in places later; wind NW, fresh; max temp 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Rain at times, with snow over N hills; bright intervals. Temp rather below normal, night frost.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind W, veering NW, fresh to strong; sea moderate to rough. English Channel (E): Wind NW, fresh, but strong at first; sea moderate but rough at first. St George's Channel: Wind NW, fresh or strong, decreasing to moderate; sea moderate, becoming slight. Irish Sea: Wind NW, strong to gale, decreasing to moderate; sea very rough, becoming slight or moderate.

Sun rises: 7.48 am. Sun sets: 3.54 pm.
Moon rises: 1 pm. Moon sets: 11.35 pm.
First quarter: 4.22 pm today.

Lighting up time

London 4.24 pm to 7.19 am
Bristol 4.34 pm to 7.29 am
Edinburgh 4.12 pm to 7.56 am
Manchester 4.22 pm to 7.38 am
Penzance 4.51 pm to 7.34 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	f	10	50	Guernsey	d	9	48
Birmingham	c	11	52	Inverness	r	11	52
Blackpool	c	9	48	Jersey	c	9	48
Bristol	f	11	52	London	c	8	46
Cardiff	f	11	52	Manchester	d	9	48
Edinburgh	c	10	50	Newcastle	c	11	52
Glasgow	c	10	50	Ronaldsway	f	10	50

London

Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 6C (43F). Humidity: 6 pm, 86 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,030.6 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

Satellite predictions

Figures give time of visibility, where rising, maximum elevation, and direction of setting. Asterisk denotes entering or leaving eclipse.

MANCHESTER: Cosmos 1858: (Dec 5) 6.27-6.36; SSW; 45SE; NE. Dynamics Explorer: 16.51-16.54; NE; 15ENE; ESE and 18.28-18.32; NNW; 35WNW; SW and (Dec 5) 5.31-5.38; SSE; 35E; N and 7.10-7.15; WSW; 15WNW; NW. Seasat: 17.39-17.42; NE*; 20NE; N and 19.19-19.21; N*; 30N; NNW.

Predictions supplied by Earth Satellite Unit, Aston University, Birmingham.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded



b—blue sky; bc—blue sky & cloud; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; prs—periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph

High tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	6.03	6.2	6.46	6.1
Aberdeen	6.29	3.5	6.25	3.6
Avonmouth	11.34	10.7		
Belfast	3.52	3.0	4.03	3.2
Cardiff	11.17	10.0	11.45	9.6
Devonport	9.49	4.8	10.28	4.5
Dover	3.17	5.8	3.52	5.4
Falmouth	9.19	4.6	9.58	4.3
Glasgow	5.07	4.3	5.22	4.4
Harwich	4.13	3.7	4.49	3.7
Holyhead	3.07	4.5	3.29	4.8
Hull	11.04	5.9	11.15	6.1
Ilfracombe	10.38	7.3	11.09	7.1
Leith	7.39	4.5	7.56	4.6
Liverpool	3.47	7.5	4.12	7.8
Lowestoft	1.21	2.3	2.53	2.1
Margate	4.19	4.3	5.01	4.2
Milford Haven	10.52	5.5	11.23	5.2
Newquay	9.49	5.6	10.21	5.3
Oban	10.44	3.2	10.47	3.0
Penzance	9.02	4.8	9.44	4.5
Portland	10.53	1.7	11.51	1.4
Portsmouth	4.01	4.0	4.16	3.8
Shoreham	3.32	5.2	4.01	5.0
Southampton	3.39	3.8	3.53	3.8
Swansea	10.59	7.7	11.27	7.4
Tees	8.49	4.3	8.54	4.6
Wltn-on-the-Nze	3.57	3.7	4.42	3.6

Tide measurement in metres: 1m = 3.2808ft.

Around Britain

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarborough	0.1	—	11	52	Cloudy
Bridlington	0.1	—	11	52	Cloudy
Cromer	—	.02	9	48	Cloudy
Lowestoft	—	.01	9	48	Cloudy
Clacton	0.1	.01	9	48	Cloudy
Hastings	—	—	8	46	Cloudy
Eastbourne	—	—	9	48	Cloudy
Worthing	—	—	9	48	Cloudy
Littlehampton	—	—	9	48	Dull
Bognor Regis	—	—	9	48	Cloudy
Shanklin	—	—	9	48	Cloudy
Bournemouth	1.7	—	10	50	Cloudy
Poole	2.0	—	11	52	Sun ints
Swanage	1.7	—	11	52	Cloudy
Weymouth	4.5	—	12	54	Sun pds
Exmouth	1.1	—	10	50	Cloudy
Teignmouth	5.1	—	11	52	Sun pds
Torquay	5.8	—	12	54	Sunny
Falmouth	2.7	—	10	50	Sun ints
Penzance	1.7	—	11	52	Cloudy
Jersey	1.2	—	10	50	Cloudy
Guernsey	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Scilly Isles	0.2	—	11	52	Cloudy
Ilfracombe	—	—	10	50	Cloudy
Tenby	—	—	10	50	Cloudy
Anglesey	—	.03	10	50	Drizzle
Colwyn Bay	—	—	10	50	Cloudy
Southport	—	.01	10	50	Cloudy
Blackpool	—	.01	10	50	Fog am
Morecambe	—	—	10	50	Cloudy
Douglas	0.2	—	10	50	Cloudy
Aldergrove	2.5	—	11	52	Sun ints
Eskdalemuir	0.4	.01	9	48	Cloudy
Prestwick	—	.02	10	50	Rain
Abbotsinch	—	.02	11	52	Drizzle
Tiree	—	.13	10	50	Rain
Stornoway	—	.35	11	52	Rain
Lerwick	0.1	.10	9	48	Cloudy
Wick	—	.12	11	52	Rain
Kinloss	—	.08	12	54	Rain
Dyce	—	—	15	59	Cloudy
Leuchars	—	—	11	52	Cloudy

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain, s, sun; sl, sleet; sn, snow.

		C	F
Ajaccio	s	13	55
Akrotiri	s	18	64
Alexandria	f	21	70
Algiers	r	10	50
Amsterdam	c	7	45
Athens	c	16	61
Bahrain	f	22	72
Barbados			
Barcelona	s	10	50
Beirut	f	18	64
Belgrade	c	2	36
Berlin	c	-2	36
Bermuda			
Biarritz	s	8	46
Boulogne	c	8	46
Bordeaux	f	7	45
Brussels	f	5	41
Budapest	c	3	37
Cairo	f	20	68
Casablanca	s	19	66
Chicago			
Cologne	c	3	37
Copenhagen	d	5	41
Corfu	c	12	54
Dallas			
Dublin	c	9	48
Dubrovnik	s	7	45
Faro	s	17	63
Florence	f	9	48
Frankfurt	s	-1	30
Funchal	s	20	68
Geneva	f	3	37
Gibraltar	s	20	68
Helsinki	sl	-3	37
Hongkong	s	16	61
Innsbruck	f	0	32
Istanbul	c	8	46
Jeddah	s	29	84
Las Palmas	s	21	70
Lisbon	s	11	52
Locarno	s	9	48
Los Angeles			
Luxembourg	fg	-1	30
Madrid	s	10	50
Majorca	f	13	55
Malaga	s	17	63
Malta	r	17	63
Melbourne	s	21	70
Mexico City			
Miami			
Milan	s	6	43
Montreal			
Moscow	c	0	32
Munich	sn	-1	30
Nairobi	c	25	77
Naples	c	9	48
New York			
Nice	s	12	54
Oslo	c	-3	27
Ottawa			
Paris	f	5	41
Perth	c	18	64
Prague	f	1	34
Reykjavik	c	4	39
Rhodes	c	18	64
Rio de Janeiro			
Rome	s	11	52
Salzburg	sn	0	32
Sao Paulo			
San Francisco			
Santiago			
Seoul	c	4	39
Stockholm	c	3	37
Strasbourg	c	0	32
Sydney	s	32	90
Tangier	s	19	66
Tel Aviv	s	20	68
Tenerife	s	22	72
Tokyo	s	10	50
Toronto			
Tunis	r	10	50
Valencia	s	13	55
Vancouver			
Venice	s	7	45
Vienna	sn	2	36
Warsaw	c	0	32
Washington			
Zurich	c	-1	30